

#### 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 Imcgrath
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,

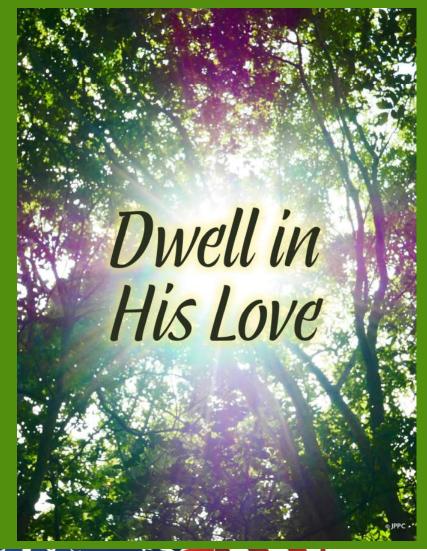
dschurko

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

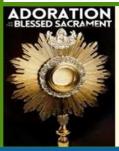
St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
Mary Lynch, Principal, mlynch

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025

6th Sunday of Easter







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

OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE JUNE 2, 2025 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.

When the Deacon is available, we conclude Adoration with a Benediction.

# This Week @ St. Matthias

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

# May is the Month of Mary

Sunday, N	unday of Easter	
8:ooAM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass (with Interpreter)	Church
11:00AM	OCIA	de Porres Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	Wedding-Hadley/Gallagher	Church

St. Philip Neri, Priest Monday, May 26, 2025 **MEMORIAL DAY** 

> PARISH CLOSED/SCHOOL CLOSED NO MASS/NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 Augustine of Canterbury, **Archbishop of Canterbury** 

8:00AM Mass Church Handbell Rehearsal 7:30PM Church

#### Wednesday, May 28, 2025

St. Germain, Bishop of Paris

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

Thursday, May 29, 2025 Pope Paul VI Church 8:00AM Mass 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

St. Joan or Arc, Martyr Friday, May 30, 2025

8:ooAM Church 8th Grade Graduation 5:00PM Church 6:00PM **Reception for Graduates** Cafeteria Boy Scout Troop 154 Mtg. John XXIII Rm. 6:45PM

#### Saturday, May 31 2025 Visitation of the Blessed

Virgin Mary Church

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

#### **ASCENSION OF THE LORD** Sunday, June 1, 2025 **CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN COLLECTION** 8:00AM Mass Church

10:00AM Mass Church 11:00AM OCIA de Porres Rm 11:00AM First Sunday Rosary Meet Outside 12:00PM Church Mass



#### **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 spaceavailable basis.

# A Message From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

Tomorrow is the feast of Philip Neri, who is the patron saint of joy and laughter. I wish to reflect with you on this important theme. On May 14, the Feast of our patron Saint Matthias, the gospel reading had this line from Jesus: "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in



you and that your joy may be full." (John 15: 11). In the following chapter, Jesus said, "I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you" (John 16:22). Jesus was a joyful person (though this topic is not often highlighted nor preached about sufficiently) and Philip Neri followed that joyful spirit in his own life. So let us look at each:

Do the gospels contain indications that Jesus was joyful or humorous? Yes. The verse I quoted above (John 15:11) was said by Jesus at the last supper – just before his agony in the garden, all the while aware of his impending betrayal, torture and crucifixion. He was conscious of the personal joy in his heart and he wanted to pass it on to his disciples and to us.

Gospels testifies that during his years of ministry, little children came to Jesus, and mothers brought their babies to him and he took to them easily. If Jesus were to be a serious person, children would not have gone to him. Years ago I read a book titled "The humor of Jesus," where the author showed how Jesus used the kind of humor prevalent in the Jewish society of that time which was exaggerated comparison. Things like a "camel going through the eye of a needle," "a blind leading a blind and both falling down" or a "log in your neighbor's eye" were very humorous to his audiences and we can assume that they roared in laughter.

St. Philip Neri realized that Jesus was truly anointed with the oil of gladness and so wanted to make this joy of Jesus his own. St. Philip Neri was known as the "Second Apostle of Rome" for his extraordinary evangelical work in 16thcentury Rome. He was well known to have had a remarkable sense of humor and great love for laughter. He used to show up to important events with half his beard shaved or give incorrect walking directions to his disciples to have a laughter at their expense. He would read a book of jokes to enjoy himself as well as regale others with laughter. He believed that these behaviors helped him to connect with other people through being present and humble.

St. Philip Neri founded the Confederation of Oratories of Saint Philip Neri (Latin: Confoederatio Oratorii Sancti Philippi Nerii), abbreviated C.O. and commonly known as the Oratorians. Theirs is a Catholic society of apostolic life of pontifical right for men (priests and religious brothers), living in community. In our own diocese we are privileged to have the Oratorians at St. Ann, St. Joseph, and Blessed Sacrament Shrine - all in Raritan, and at Holy Trinity in Bridgewater. We wish them a very happy feast of their patron. We can ask ourselves: How can we be apostles of joy today? St. Philip suggests, "Have all the fun you want, but just don't offend God." We can also keep in mind the words of St. Paul: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Phil 4:4-6).

We will have a picture of a smiling Jesus in our church so that we can be reminded to keep His joy in our hearts and be joyful as Jesus was.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

# **Readings for the Week**

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

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

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

**Thursday** Acts 1:1-11 Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23 Lk 24:46-53

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

**Saturday** Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16 Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Lk 1:39-56

**Sunday** Acts 7:55-60 Ps 97:1-2, 6-7, 9 Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20 Jn 17:20-26



# **Mass Intentions for the Week**

Sat., May 24	5:00 PM	Intention 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
Mon., May 26	8:00 AM	NO MASS
Tues., May 27	8:00 AM	Mary Phillipuk by JoAnn Piagentini
Wed., May 28	8:00 AM	David Turner by Jeanine Berwitz
Thurs., May 29	8:00 AM	Remembrance of Maricris Fernandez by Your Parents and Family
Fri., May 30	8:00 AM	David Turner by Lorraine Walkiewicz
Sat., May 31	5:00 PM	Russell & Hedwig Demkovitz by Russell & Monica Demkovitz
Sun., June 1	8:00 AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00 AM	Birthday Blessings Joseph A. Ramos by Mom

12:00 PM Jean Elguicze by Joseph Gidaro

# Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email 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.

Marilyn Jensen

New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.

Connie Adams Beth, Jim & Jay Adams Suzanne Adams Sue Alese Marie Arroyo Robert Baker **Edgar Banaag** Carolyn Banghart Ghislaine Baron Carmen Bender Mary Bostrom Robert Brisson Patricia Burke Karin Cabezaz Ben Campbell Tara Capatosto Rustico Castellano Marty Collins Pierre Celestin Lisa DeFeo **Derowitsch Family** Patrick Dolphin

Vivian Dong Sanora Doyen Andrea Dubuisson **Barry Dusault Hattie Evans** Adam Figueriedo Margaret Ann Cichon Ford Sharon Gadomski Gerard Giordano Claude Godet Marie Godet Fr. Ben Gomez OMI Shelly Greene Joan Harris Linda Hartong Jeff Hentz Sloopy & JP Hoffman Marilyn Horvath Jerry & Donna Hucul Nicole Cherill Hynes Rafael Jara

Jean Alix Jolly Marie Claude Jolly Donna Kahora Patty Kerekes Betsy Kondrat Kim Krikorian Kathy Langenbacher Rose Larangeira Linda Leone Henrietta Lesiak John Litrakis Mary Lou Litrakis Aries Magali Cynthia Magat Kenneth & Kelly Magat Bobby Manansala Susan, King & Tosh Manansala Colleen Maniscalco Alexandra Marquez Christine Matthews

Joan Mazzacco Ann McElwee Jessica Marie Merrick Gail Miranda Catalina Moran Sarah Braun Morini John Mulholland Raoul Nuguid Celia Palacio Dr. Jean Patrick Robert Pellegrino Robert Pierro Robert Pietrowiak Valerie Polci Kim Price Joan Pritchard Frank Rispoli Gabriel Rivera **Bob Rotz** Marisa Ruppel Gloria Santos Maria Schwenzer

Patricia Shea Amy Shepp Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF Catherine Steele Richard Sury Jacqueline Taylor Anita Vance Minda Villarica Gayle Vosseler Eileen Weber Nancy Whelan Bill Wellman Richard Zagurek Mike Zambri Ginette Zamor Anne Zando Celia M. Zelinski

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



# **Smile with Your Family**



Here is an Irish lyric: "Paddy Murphy went to Mass, never missed a Sunday. But Paddy Murphy went to hell, for what he did on Monday." ©

Irish Whiskey: An American tourist in Dublin asks a local citizen: "Is Irish whiskey REALLY strong?" The Irishman answered him: "Aye, it's very strong; last Saturday night after only 2 Irish whiskies, I went to 7am Mass." "What's so unique about that," the American inquired. The Irishman replied: "I'm Jewish!" ©

#### Wise cracks:

Judgmental people are like clouds. When they disappear, it's a beautiful day ①

There will be less judging others if only closed minds came with closed mouths ©

Counting other people's sins do not make you a saint!

Two guys are talking about fishing. One says to the other, "I am NEVER going to take my wife fishing with me, ever again!" "That bad, huh," his friend responded. "She did everything wrong! She talked too much, made the boat rock constantly, tried to stand up in the boat, baited the hook wrong, used the wrong lures, and WORST of all she caught more fish than me!"

George went fishing, but he had not caught one fish. On the way back to camp, he stopped at a fish store. "I want to buy three trout," he said to the owner. "But instead of putting them in a bag, throw them to me." "Why should I do that?" the owner asked. "So I can tell everyone that I caught three fish!" George said. :



### **Parenting Tune-Up**

Gratitude can be an overused word these days, but that doesn't mean we should neglect it. Play a "Gratitude Game" with your child. See if each of you can list 10 things you're grateful for today. If something bad happens, see if you can find a silver lining.

#### Marriage Tune-Up

"Love one another." (John 13:35) You're married. Of course, you love your spouse. But Jesus keeps repeating this command to love. Perhaps it is because love is never finished. Look for a new opportunity to show your love today. Surprise your beloved.

### "ARE WE SHOT DOWN?"

A commercial airline pilot on one occasion made a particularly bad landing. The wheels of the big jet hit the runway with a jarring thud. Afterward, the airline had a policy, which required that the pilot stand at the door while the passengers exited. He was to give each of them a smile and say, "Thanks for flying with us today." In light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment, but no one seemed annoyed. Finally, everyone had gotten off except for one little old lady walking with a cane. She approached the pilot and asked, "Sonny, mind if I ask you a question?" "Why, no, Ma'am, what is it?" said the pilot bravely. "Did we land," she asked, "or were we shot down?" -- Maybe you've had days like that, days when it felt like you were shot down. Even worse, maybe things are going quite well for you, really. Your friends and your family tell you how fortunate you are. But you don't feel fortunate. In fact, your life is somewhat tortured by a nagging fear that you cannot even define. It is at those moments that God wants us to turn to Him. He is our Peace, always.

We are not alone: One of the great social and ethical problems of our time is isolation. Today, approximately 25% of all adults live alone. Spouses, parents, and children often live as virtual strangers to one another. This is unfortunate because we never need to be alone. Jesus can always be present to us. He shares with us his joy and replaces the burden of our guilt with the freedom of forgiveness. He takes our grief and turns it into joy. We need only allow Jesus into our lives to be rid of this loneliness. Oneness with Jesus is the greatest gift we can give our children, our friends, or those who see no purpose in life. We can help bring people to unity with Jesus, a unity that will change their lives. As we celebrate this Eucharistic meal, our Mass, let us celebrate in a special way the price Jesus paid for our redemption. May this Eucharistic celebration empower us to lead a true Life in the Spirit.

#### **THE RUNNERS**



"Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come and make our dwelling with him." John 14: 23-29

The group began about 15 years ago: a bunch of middle-aged guys, set in their ways, comfortable maintaining only those friendships that were long-standing. Most of them didn't know each other very well. But

their commitment to running together - Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 a.m., later on weekends, through the cold winter darkness and under the hot summer sun - had morphed into something wonderfully permanent, a brotherhood that makes days bright and the thought of old age less daunting.

Their travels together have formed affections now deeply embedded. On runs, two or three may breakaway to resolve some tension, administer therapy, or just squawk. Their conversations as a group are predictable: they untangle the world's political problems, renew college rivalries, and banter about their adventures as husbands and dads. ADHD, the tendency to exaggerate with comic predictability, braggadocio, hypochondria - one or more members may, on any day, manifest these conditions, but acceptance is unconditional.

Bodies grow fatigued. Hair thins. Shoulders hunch. The wear and tear of miles logged exacts a toll. But the Runners are still there for one another - even though one or two can no longer run. Together, they have celebrated their children's birthdays and many other milestones. Now they help one another adjust to the reality that those children are now adults making their way to college and beyond. The Runners' relationship remains intact on account of the ground they've covered; together, they form a rampart that both uplifts and protects them from the siege of time below.

The simple shared experience of running binds a group of guys together, creating a community of support and acceptance, of mutual respect and charity. For many of those same reasons, Jesus has brought us together as church: to create a community of compassion, of reconciliation, of charity for one another. What we share is our faith in the Risen Christ; his Spirit of humble and grateful service is what binds us together. In his peace, we are "connected" to one another; in his memory, we mirror the love that he lived and taught. As we anticipate the dawning of that Spirit at Pentecost, may we renew our Baptismal commitment to one another as the people of God: the community of disciples of the Gospel Jesus, who supports and lifts up one another in our own struggles to live that Gospel of humble and compassionate service.

#### STORY FOR TODAY: WET NOSE LOVE



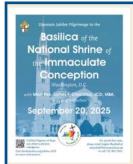
"I hugged the dog. It felt like that piece I was missing right there. She saved my life," said one veteran about the caregiver dog provided by Operation Freedom Paws, founded by Mary Cortani.

Recently nominated as a 2012 CNN Hero of the Year, Mary believed her extensive dog-training skills could be used to provide more than trained dogs to vets suffering from PTSD, post-traumatic stress disorder. Mary wanted veterans to train the dogs themselves. As the vets began training dogs as their companion, they began to feel a sense of accomplishment and confidence that they still had a mission and purpose. The unconditional love provided by the dogs engendered the unconditional love needed for a vet to remember what life was like without combat.

Clients say that Mary possesses an uncanny ability to see the possibility of the perfect dog for the perfect vet, even when the vet sees only darkness. These animals help veterans trust in the world again. "The most amazing thing is to see the person and the animal transform into this amazing working team where they just help each other navigate life, and they create a new normal. My life is blessed," said Mary. "I may not be worth a lot of money, but I am very rich." "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." Peace often does not come back to veterans after returning from a war zone. But peace may be held for them in these loving animals who willingly share it with even the most hardened heart.

God provides peace in many ways and through many creatures. Jesus says that an advocate, a "holy spirit" will be sent in his name to remind the disciples of all he taught. It appears that, at times, this advocate might possess four legs rather than two. As Mary said, "Love heals, especially when it's got a wet nose and four paws and a wagging tail."

Dr. Constance M. Popp



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

#### **HELEN KELLER'S INDWELLING GOD?**



The story is told that after Helen Keller's teacher, Annie Sullivan, had given her the names of physical objects in sign language, Miss Sullivan attempted to explain God and tapped out the symbols for the name "God." Much to Miss Sullivan's surprise, Helen spelled back, "Thank you for telling me God's name, Teacher, for He has touched me many times before." How could

Helen Keller have known about God? Although she was blind and deaf, Helen Keller knew God, for God had shown Himself to her.

That is "revelation" of an indwelling God in each of us as we hear in today's Scripture readings. Thus we are made aware of the effects of the abiding presence of God in His Church and of His indwelling in each one of us. The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, tells us how the Holy Spirit, dwelling in the Church, helped the apostles to solve a major doctrinal problem, which shook the very foundation of the early Church. The second reading, taken from the Book of Revelation describes the Church as the Heavenly Jerusalem, a city united in love, with the victorious Jesus, residing in it and in each of its members replacing the holy presence of God in the Holy of Holies of the Temple in Jerusalem. The Gospel passage reminds us that the Holy Spirit abiding within us is our teacher and the Source of all peace. The passage offers a vision of hope. Jesus promises his followers that the Holy Spirit will come and instruct them in everything they need to know.

#### **TEMPLES OF THE TRIUNE GOD**



St. Francis of Assisi was an ardent advocate of the doctrine of the indwelling of God in man. It enabled him to love every one equally whatever his status in life. One day he met a fellow who had no love for God. As they walked along they

met a man who was blind and paralyzed. St. Francis asked the sightless cripple: "Tell me if I were to restore your eyesight and the use of your limbs, would you love me?" "Ah," replied the beggar, "I would not only love you but I would be your slave for the rest of my life." "See," said Francis to the man who maintained that he could not love God, "this man would love me if I gave him his sight and his health. Why don't you love God Who created you with eyesight and strong limbs?"

That is what Jesus tells us in today's Gospel. If we love him because of the countless blessings he has given us by "keeping his words" he will start dwelling within us in the company of his Father and the Holy Spirit, making us the temples of the Triune God. Condition for the indwelling of the Holy Trinity: Jesus teaches us the condition for this indwelling of the Holy Trinity, namely, we have to show our love of God by keeping his word. And this keeping of his word will be facilitated by the Holy Spirit, God's Holy Breath.

#### **HEAD AND TAIL FIGHT OF BULLDOG ANTS**



The philosopher Schopenhauer once compared us to a Bulldog Ant. If we cut a Bulldog Ant in half, the front and rear segments will enter

into a savage fight. The head will seize the tail with its teeth, while the tail will sting the head with fury. The fight might last for hours. That is the way some of us are on the inside. There is part of us that wants to move ahead and a part that wants to stand absolutely still. There is a part of us that wants success and recognition. There is another part that wants to sit on the river bank and while away the hours. There is a part of us that wants to serve Christ. There is another part that says, "No, I've enough to do right now. Let someone else take their turn." There is a fierce battle going on within many of us. Few of us know what it is to live lives of contentment and peace. Jesus said to his disciples, "I am leaving you with a gift -- peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid." What a promise! What a gift! Peace of mind and heart. He can give it to

Jesus gives his followers four gifts: First, he gives them his love, which will enable them to keep his word. Next, he gives them the Holy Spirit, who will teach them everything they need to know. The Holy Spirit is the abiding love of God available to us, enabling us to accept the friendship of Jesus, while imitating Him, the Master. Third, he gives them His peace to strengthen them against fear in the face of trouble. Here "peace" is not just the absence of conflict, but also the far wider concept of shalom, the total well-being of the person and community. The promise of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will bring a peace that will quell their fears of the unfolding darkness ahead. "In Johannine language, peace, truth, light, life and joy are figurative terms reflecting different facets of the great gift that Jesus has brought from God to the world. 'Peace is my gift to you,' is another way of saying, 'I give them eternal life' (Jn 10:28) (Raymond E. Brown). The Holy Spirit is available as Comforter and Guide to those who believe in Jesus and follow in his way. The One God -- the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - is pure Love. This Love, the Triune God, comes and lives in us, takes up residence in us and lives in our body. When God's love lives in us, and we live in Him, there is much more peace in our families, our Churches, our offices. Fourth, Jesus rewards them with the assurance of his second coming.

### 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 15<sup>th</sup> using FUN15 to save \$15!

If you have multiple children use SIBLOVE30 to save \$30 for 2 siblings and SIBLOVE40 to save \$40 for 3 or more siblings! Contact Camp Director, Christine Taylor at ctaylor@stmatthiasnj.org 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

# Connect



Congratulations and Blessings to those who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 1, 2025



#### 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 gam 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



# **COME PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US**

The Rosary Altar Society meets every first Sunday of each month after the 10 am Mass to pray the rosary.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN.



#### **CATHOLIC UNDERSTANDING & BIBLICAL DEFENSE**

Catholicism is rich with 2000 years of tradition, the sacraments, the Mass, the saints, and Scripture. And although about 25% of the bible is covered during the 3-year cycle of Mass readings, there's much more; and every story or message has layers of information waiting to be peeled away. Kind of like a spiritual-archeological dig!



- Did you know that Mary is the fulfillment of the Old Testament's Ark of the Covenant?
- Did you know that when Jesus cried out on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" he was fulfilling Psalm 22?

We spend one hour each week on select readings or topics.

No verbal participation required.

No bible experience necessary.

Zoom meeting every Tuesday, 7 pm - 8 pm (EST).

Ron Hallagan, Content Organizer/Presenter

Join us at: Meetup.com/CatholicBibleStudy
Taylor Maley, Event Organizer, taylor.hallagan@gmail.com



'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** 







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** In-Pew/Mail **Current Month** Parish Giving **Weekly Total Weekly Total** Week 44 - May 4, 2025 \$13,700.00 \$14,136.50 \$27,836.50 \$27,521.50 \$9,543.20 \$25,459.00 Week 45 - May 11, 2025 \$35,002.20 \$33,448.00 Week 46 - May 18, 2025 \$21,443.65 Week 47 - May 26, 2025 \$22,094.60 Month-to-date Total **May Total Last Year** \*Due to the accelerated schedule of the bulletin publishers, the stewardship \$62,838.70 \$104,507.75 information will be updated in the next **Current Year-to-date Total** Year-to-date as of May 31, 2024 bulletin. \$1,196,067.55 \$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 25, 2025 6th Sunday of Easter

# "... Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." (John 14:27)

Our limited human understanding cannot begin to understand the immense power of God. Instead of trusting in God, we often think we can control every outcome. Do you want to make God laugh? Tell Him your plans. The next time worry, anxiety, or fear creeps in, thank God for all He has given you and trust that He has a better plan for you. Make God your first choice and not your last resort.

### Reflexiónese – 25 de Mayo de 2025 Domingo 6° de Pascua

#### "... No se turben sus corazones ni tengan miedo." (Juan 14:27)

Nuestra comprensión humana es limitada y no es suficiente para entender el inmenso poder de Dios. En lugar de confiar en Dios, a menudo pensamos que podemos controlarlo todo. ¿Quiere hacer reír a Dios? Cuéntele sus planes. La próxima vez que lo invada la preocupación, la ansiedad o el temor, dele gracias a Dios por lo que Él le ha dado y confíe que Dios tiene un plan mejor para usted. Haga de Dios su primera escogencia y no su último recurso.







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**





Come discover God's plan for your ultimate flourishing!

#### EVENT HIGHIIGHTS:

- · Fellowship & Music
- · Hot Brunch
- Prayer & Reflection

#### MATN SPEAKER:

LISA COTTER
"REVEAL THE GIFT"

#### OCTOBER II, 2025 9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

ST. JOHN NEUMANN PASTORAL CENTER 46 METLARS LANE - PISCATAWAY, NJ











Watchung, NJ 07069

SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE
Wednesday, June 18 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 bag 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
FinanceCouncil
@stmatthias.net

Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade school rooted in faith,

inspired by love, and dedicated to academic excellence. Before and After School Care Programs are available. Come visit! Contact 732-828-1402 to schedule a

tour.





21 OLCOTT STREET **FIRE FIGHTERS NEEDED WE WILL TRAIN!** 

To Join Email...station44@middlebushfire.com

basement waterproofing

In Our 4th Decade of Quality Service

French Drains · Foundation Repair · Mold Remediation All Work Guaranteed

732-777-7888

www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com

For Advertising Information Contact

Ryan Mahalsky 908-392-4240 rmahalsky@jppc.net



JOHN PATRICK publishing company, inc.



#### Complete Kitchen & **Bathroom Remodeling**

Porcelain Marble **Granite Countertops** Heated Floors Backsplashes Shower Doors 732-514-1500

Lic # 13VH00782600 (Parishioner)

### ROOFING • CHIMNEYS • MASONRY • GUTTERS We Find and Fix Leaks!

# EXPERT CHIMNEY

20% OFF

\$1100 OFF

Family Owned & Operated - Lic. #13VH11097900

732-520-9554 | WWW.EXPERTCHIMNEYROOFING.COM



RE-IMAGINE SENIOR LIVING

An Assisted Living and Memory Care Community in your neighborhood.

# **SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!**

732.873.4800

473 Demott Lane Somerset, NJ 08873

www.springhills.com





113 Clinton St., So. Bound Brook, NJ



### DRIVEWAYS PARKING LOTS

**FULLY INSURED** FREE ESTIMATES

732-828-4177

**SOMERSET, NJ** 



United Together In The Fight Against Bullying... Don't Just Teach Kindness... **BE KINDNESS!** 

www.MallorysArmy.com (973) 440-8657 info@mallorysarmy.org

> It's easy to join our mailing list!

Just send your email address by text message: **Text MALLORYSARMY** to 22828 to get started.

Message and data rates may apply



732-565-1500

Associates, L.L.C. 49 VERONICA AVE. SUITE #204 SOMERSET, NJ 08873

Comprehensive Cataract/Cornea Glaucoma/Retina **Soft & Specialty Contact Lens Fitting** 

Roopinder K. Francesca K. www.edisonophthalmology.com





STOP I ASK MATCH I INFORM

### ROOFING • CHIMNEYS **MASONRY • GUTTERS • DECK REPAIR**



\$1100 OFF Any New Roof Replacement

20% OFF Any Roof, Chimney, Gutter, Masonry Repair & SENIORS

Family Owned/Operated • Lic. #13VH0934200, Bonded & Insured • 20+ Years 

# catholicmatch New Jersey

Lee, O.D.

CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ





Grewal, M.D.

Make a Difference in Your Community

# VOLUNTEER

with the American Red Cross

Join today at redcross.org/Volunteer



# SPONSO

Sponsors can offer promotions, discounts and/or up-to-date contact information to the **ENTIRE** community



**ANYONE** in the community can access realtime offers from their favorite sponsors to save, share & support



**CATERING FOR** LIFE EVENTS

Deli & Pizzeria • Delivery 28 Main St., South Bound Brook (732) 356-4557 www.Joes-meatmarket.com

Tiovanni s 113 Clinton Street So. Bound Brook, NJ 848-305-4467 (GIOS) chefgio@giovannis-nj.com Parking Mandatory

Monday Closed Tues-Thurs 4-9pm Fri & Sat 12-10pm Sunday 12-8pm BYOB FRIENDLY

Join Our Mailing List FRI & SAT EVENINGS

#### Steve's Pizza & Restaurant 900 Easton Ave. Somerset Village

732-247-0400 \$1.50 Off Large 18" Pie

JOHN'S PAINTING

Local Resident &

Diocesan Member

(908) 604-8759

www.johnspaint.com

#### **AJS PAINTING** TONY SCHINELLA, PARISHIONER

Friendly, Courteous Service Owner Operated, Free Proposals Meticulous, Guaranteed Work Highest Quality, Affordable Price 732-873-8477

# SOLD **BARROOD**

Selling, Buying or Renting Houses - Call us for help! 700 EASTON AVE., SOMERSET 732-846-1661

Good people, great service, since 1940

# Home Helpers

Making Like Easier®

(732) 873-9063

Welcome to Our Church!

Your Trusted Home Care Provider!

Personal & Companion Care Meal Preparation, Shopping And Much More!

www.HomeHelpersHomeCare.com/Somerset

# **National Public Adjustment**

Parishoner Owned

Arnold Espiritu | (732) 850-4142 Private/Public Insurance Claims Adjuster

Wind, Rain, Fire, Water, Plumbing, Vandalism, Snow, Ice, Mold, etc.

American

Standard.

### **BRIGHT VIEW** POWERWASHING **& PAINTING**

Greg Dente, Owner/Operator Somerset & surrounding areas Friendly & Reliable Services Free estimates • Guaranteed work We keep our promises • No job too small

POWERWASHING & SMALL PAINTING WORK 908.812.2061

# GLEASON FUNERAL HOME

At Need Care • Pre-Need • Monuments Parishioner Owned

William K. Gleason, Mgr., N.J. Lic. No. 4489 1360 HAMILTON STREET • SOMERSET, NJ

732-545-0700 www.GleasonFuneralHome.com



HEATING & AIR

Townsend St., New Brunswick, NJ

Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric 732-247-2763

696 Franklin Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873 www.jackdolanandsons.com

info@jackdolanandsons.com

### **SENIOR HOME AIDE**

Trustworthy and reliable home aide available to assist in taking care of your home.

Call or text (908) 544-6152 for details and to schedule help.

# **WE'RE HIRING!**

Substitute Teachers & Support Staff throughout New Jersey

Apply today at SOURCE 4 TEACHERS.com



**April Tarantino Broker Associate** Direct: (732) 735-3511 apriltarantino@hotmail.com ww.apriltarantino.com

Our Town
852 Easton Ave. Somerset, NJ 08873 O: (732) 249-7362 x107 31 Years Experience ~ Somerset Specialist

Se Habla Español



Your continued support has not gone unnoticed by your parish community and is SO appreciated!

QUALITY PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Serving Central NJ Since 1986

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL** 

SALES/SERVICE

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

P. Lic. #12425 • E. Lic. #9526 • NJ Reg #13VH02047500 • HVAC Lic. 1510

# D'Angiolillo Chiropractic Center

• Find out more about us and how we can help you!

Visit Our Website @ www.DrJoeD.com (732) 873-2222

PROFESSIONAL CENTER AT SOMERSET

11 Clyde Road, Suite 103 Somerset, NJ 08873

Serving Our Community Since 1985

# RAIKE'S **Home Improvement LLC** 732-249-7113

Fully Insured Lic. 13VH06498900 www.raikeshomeimprovement.com We Install & Construct

• Windows • Finished Basements • Siding

• Doors Kitchens • Roofing

Custom Interior Woodwork Baths

**Power Washing** 

Homes • Decks • Sidewalks • Driveways • Stoops • Etc. No Job Too Small! Cabinet Refacing **Parishioner** 

Put Your Home in My Hands COLDWELL BANKER KATHLEEN FARAH SPERO Realtor®, Broker, SRS, SRES C 908.331.0859 • O 908.879.4900 Kathleen.Spero@CBRealty.com SperoSellsNJ.com re Advisors LLC . Advisors LLC Owned by a subsidiary of Anyv

TURE FARAH MANAGEMENT

Fertilizer • Weed Control Seeding & Grading 908-809-8366 www.farahlandscapedesign.com



22 Plainfield Ave.,

Piscataway, NJ

**ELECTRIC. PLUMBING** 

**HEATING & COOLING** 

1186 LIVINGSTON AVENUE, NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ

Angie's List Award Winner 2015-2023 KITCHENS • BATHROOMS

\$10,000 Complete Bathroom Remodel. **Labor / Materials** 

WWW.DALTONEPHC.COM

www.my5DB.com 0: 732-369-6387

732-545-4040

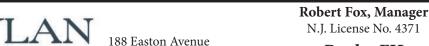


# FIND YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND

\$60 adoption fee | animals are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped & up-to-date on shots Franklin Township Animal Shelter

475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873

732.873.2500 x6255 | Tue-Fri 12-3 & Sat 12-6 Second Chance For An



www.BoylanFH.com

10 Wooding Avenue Edison, NJ 08817 732-572-0076



New Brunswick, NI 08901 Family owned and operated since 1958