



**St. Matthias Parish Office:**  
**(beginning 6/2/23)**

**Summer hours:**

Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm  
 Friday - 8:30 am - 1:00 pm  
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873  
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866  
[www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net)

**Mass Schedule (in person):**

Sat - 5PM, Sun - 8, 10 AM & 12 noon  
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM

And also on our YouTube channel  
[youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

**St. Matthias School (SMS):**

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info) 732-828-1402  
 School Office Hours, Mon-Fri 8AM to 3PM.

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

**Pastor:** Rev Abraham Orapankal, **abraham**  
**Senior Priest:** Msgr. Seamus Brennan, **sbrennan**  
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator  
**mpburke-grospin**

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*  
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**  
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**  
 Nathalie Godet, *Website Coordinator*, **ngodet**  
 Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lguillen**  
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**  
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*  
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**  
 Mary Jo Loboda, *Parish Staff, Development*,  
**mjloboda**  
 Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*  
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for Faith*  
*Formation*, **dnann**  
 Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**  
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*  
 Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**  
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for Music*  
*Ministry*, **jseamon**  
 Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral*  
*Assoc. for Social Concerns*, **msherwood**  
 Trish Stumper, *Parish Support Secretary*,  
**tstumper**

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

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2023-**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

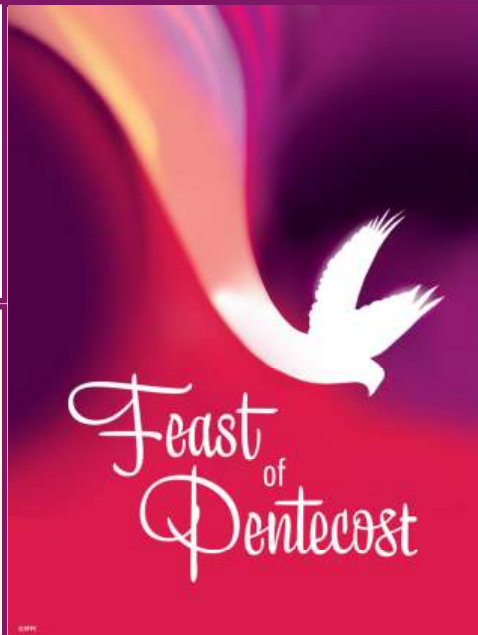


**Next Sunday,**  
**June 4th at 12:00PM**  
**Last Meeting**



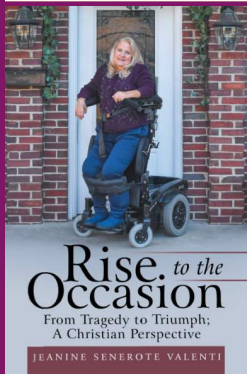
**Next Sa**  
**Rosary Altar**  
**Society Meeting**

The Rosary Altar Society will  
 hold its next meeting on  
**Sunday, June 4, at 11:00AM**  
 in the **St. John XXIII Room.**



**BEFORE and AFTER SCHOOL DIRECTOR**  
**POSITION AVAILABLE**

Saint Matthias School is looking for a director for our before and after school program for the 2022-2023 school year. This is a part-time position for an individual who enjoys working with children and who has some managerial experience. The hours are 2:00-6:00, Monday to Friday. If you are interested, please phone the school at 732-828-1402, extension 144 or send an email to [jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org).



**A BOOK SIGNING BY ONE OF OUR OWN**

**JUNE 5, 2023**

**7 PM IN THE CHURCH**

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AFTER SIGNING

Parishioner Jeanine Senerote Valenti's  
 new book: 'Rise to the Occasion'.  
 See Page 8 for more details.

# This Week @ St. Matthias From Our Senior 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 28, 2023 Pentecost Sunday**

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

**Monday, May 29, 2023 Memorial- Mary, Mother of the Church**

**Memorial Day, School & Parish office Closed**  
8:00AM No Mass

**Tuesday, May 30, 2023 St. Joan of Arc, Martyr**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Memorial Mass—Fr. Abraham	Church

**Wednesday, May 31, 2023 Feast- The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

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

**Thursday, Jun 1, 2023 Memorial- St. Justin, Martyr 1st Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church
8:00PM	K of C Mtg.	Cafeteria

**Friday, Jun 2, 2023 Sts. Peter & Marcellinus, Martyrs**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	1st Friday Holy Hour	Church
10:30AM	Mass- Spring Hill- Msgr. Brennan	
5:00PM	SMS- Baccalaureate Mass & Graduation & Reception	Church & Cafeteria

**Saturday, Jun 3, 2023 Memorial- Charles Lwanga & Co., Martyrs**

9:00AM	Boy Scouts—Car Wash	Front of Church
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

**Sunday, Jun 4, 2023 Building Repair & Replacement Fund Collection**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Society mtg.	John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	SMYLE End of Year Mtg.	Church

## Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by 8 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

## Mary and the Eucharist



We are in the last week of the month of May which has traditionally been seen as the month of Mary. Spring begins to take hold and flowers are in full bloom. Life springs anew from the dormancy of winter. Families return to walk in parks and children get involved in baseball, softball, and other outdoor sports. We feel more alive and energetic (unless perhaps we suffer from seasonal allergies). With the beginning of the month of May many Catholic families build some type of altar in their homes and place a statue of Mary in a prominent position on or near the altar. Fresh flowers are kept on the altar out of devotion to Mary. And many families prepare to celebrate First Communion with children.

Mother's Day also falls in May (14 this year), the day when all of us like to reflect on the gift of our mothers. Whether they are living or deceased we remember them in some way, with prayers or with flowers and gifts to express our gratitude for the gift of life they gave us.

In the last encyclical he wrote before his death, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, Pope Saint John Paul II focused the church's attention on the Eucharist. In this encyclical he pointed out that the church has no better model for devotion to the Eucharist than Mary. At one point the pope meditates on the **Visitation (feast day May 31)** quoting Saint Elizabeth's words "Blessed is she who believed". He writes, "when at the Visitation, she bore in her womb the Word made flesh, she became the tabernacle -the first tabernacle in history-in which the Son of God, still invisible to our human gaze, allowed himself to be adored by Elizabeth." One of the chapters is entitled "In the school of Mary" and the pope speaks about how we are called to contemplate the face of Christ with Mary. As the church throughout the USA is about to launch the parish phase of **Eucharistic Revival** on June 11 of this year we would do well to turn to Mary in this month of May to ask her intercession for our families and our parish community.

The greatest gift many Catholics could give to their mothers this Mother's Day would be to return to regular attendance at Sunday mass. As a priest I hear so many stories from mothers of teens and young adults, of the pain and hurt they experience because their children have stopped attending mass. If you are among those who have stopped attending mass then one of the best gifts you could give your parents would be to recommit to mass every Sunday and bring your family along. May is the month of Mary and mothers and first Holy Communion. I pray it can be a time of renewal for all Catholics as we enter into this time of Eucharistic Revival contemplating the face of Christ with Mary.

Msgr. Brennan

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7; Jn 19:25-34

**Tuesday:** Sir 35:1-12; Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14, 23; Mk 10:28-31

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

**Thursday:** Sir 42:15-25; Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 10:46-52

**Friday:** Sir 44:1, 9-13; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b; Mk 11:11-26

**Saturday:** Sir 51:12cd-20; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mk 11:27-33

**Sunday:** Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9; Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, May 27</b>	5:00PM	Mary Ellen Delaney, by Mom & Dad
<b>Sunday, May 28</b>	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Marie Speak, by The Stuewe Family
	12:00PM	Helen & Al Jago, by Lynne Finan & Family
<b>Monday, May 29</b>	8:00AM	No Mass
<b>Tuesday, May 30</b>	8:00AM	Blessings for Erlinda Gaspar Torio by Alma Valdez
<b>Wednesday, May 31</b>	8:00AM	Hugh Scott, by wife, Pearl
<b>Thursday, June 1</b>	8:00AM	Spiritual Intention of Joseph Ramos By Rebecca Ramos
<b>Friday, June 2</b>	8:00AM	In Memory of Ester Liban by Alma Valdez
<b>Saturday, June 3</b>	5:00PM	Billy Boyd, by daughter, Dolores
<b>Sunday, June 4</b>	8:00AM	Sr. Irma Kessler, by Carol Milleman & Family
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Harto Sukendro, by The Sukendro Family

## Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at [kcunts@stmatthias.net](mailto:kcunts@stmatthias.net) to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for **6 weeks**. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers. [New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.](#)

Carolyn Banghart  
Tammy Baskaran  
Arthur & Regina Berlowitz  
John Blum  
Bishop Paul Bootkowski  
Barbara Butler  
Bianca Canlas  
Tara Capatosto  
Ellen Catalina  
Kyle Davidson  
Lisa DeFeo  
Michael DiMaggio  
William Dolphin  
Hattie Evans  
Josephine Geenty  
Claudia Gemgnani

Helen Geraghty  
Emma Gergely  
Marilyn Horvath  
Robert Kashinsky  
Kathleen Langenbacher  
Henrietta Lesiak  
Mary Lou Litrakis  
John Litrakis  
Joseph Lubrano  
Jude Raymond Maceren  
Aries Magali  
Al Maglio  
Anne McElwee  
Margaret Menendez  
Carol Millemann  
Eleanor Nagy

Danny Ongchango  
Robert Pellegrino  
Paul & Doris Paetow  
Jim Pettit  
Randolff Pinard  
Valerie Polci  
Kim Price  
Doris Regan  
Gabriel Rivera  
Arina Robinson  
Arthur Robinson  
Maria Schwenzer  
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF  
Sr. Bernadine Marie  
Stemnock  
Jeff Sullivan

Tom Szabo  
Nancy Whelan  
Mark Worthington  
Carl Wyopen  
Angie Yetyet

**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*

Meg Ossandon, Wilfredo Paredes, Sr., George Arcaro

## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



Our parish priest had a flair for the dramatic. He got the idea of having a pigeon released from the belfry on Pentecost just at the moment when, on the church steps in front of the procession of worshipers, he would say, "Come, Holy Spirit!" Pentecost came, and the sacristan put a pigeon in a bag, went upstairs to the belfry and waited. When the priest pronounced the words, nothing happened. A few seconds later, we heard a voice from the belfry, "It's stifled!" 😊

A man's prayer: "Lord, controlling my tongue is no problem; it's my face that needs deliverance!" 😊

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, 'My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50.'

The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on piece of paper, he calls it an 'article,' they give him \$100.' The third boy, son of a minister, says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!' 😊

Four-year-old Amanda was taken to the doctor's office with a fever. The doctor looked in her ears and asked, "Who's in there? Donald Duck?" She said, "No." He looked in her open mouth, "Who's in there? Mickey Mouse?" Again she said, "No." He put his stethoscope on her heart and asked, "Who's in there? Barney?" Amanda replied, "No, Jesus is in my heart. Barney is in the pocket of my underwear." 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

(Memorial Day) To serve country, others, or God is to give your life because of your love. Dying for a good cause is a great sacrifice, but sacrificing time and spending energy in the service of your family counts too. How do you instill in your children this sense of sacrifice and service?

### Marriage Tune-Up



(Pentecost) "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit." (1 Cor. 12:4) What is one of your beloved's strengths? OK, so we all have different sacred strengths, BUT do you have the "same Spirit"? Unite yourselves in the spirit of Forgiveness. Is there anything you find difficult to forgive?

***"Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?" Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-11***

The new film *All Quiet on the Western Front* is a powerful adaptation of Erich Maria Remarque's classic 1929 novel. The film is eloquent and poetic - and brutal and unsparing in its portrayal of the horrors of war. The story centers on Paul Baumer, a teenager who is caught up in the naïve patriotic fervor of Germany at the height of World War I. Paul and his friends enlist in the German army to fight the French. They arrogantly look forward to an easy, victory march into Paris — but they never get beyond the carnage of the trenches on the French countryside. Paul's preconceptions about the enemy and the righteousness of the conflict soon

### "All Quiet on the Western Front"

crumble.

In an indelible scene, Paul is suddenly confronted by a French soldier in a bomb crater. In the struggle that ensues, Paul stabs the enemy combatant. The French soldier dies slowly and painfully; Paul cannot help, only watch. Paul morphs from the raw hate with which he's been taught to regard the enemy to the natural compassion he feels for the suffering of a fellow human being. As he tries to clean the mud and grime off the dead soldier's face, Paul finds the soldier's wallet, which holds a picture of his young bride and family and his identification card: "Gerard Duval, Typographer." Paul's tears turn the dried dirt on his face into more mud. Devastated with remorse, Paul begs for forgiveness from the French soldier's dead body.

"Comrade. Comrade, comrade," Paul says in French. "I am so sorry. I am so sorry." Gathering up Duval's papers and few personal effects, Paul stammers "I promise . . . I promise . . . I promise . . ." Paul hopes to return the possessions to Duval's family. But it's a promise he will not be able to keep.

**In a moment of compassion in the midst of horror, Paul sees beyond his own fear to "see" his hated enemy in a new light: as a husband, a father, a craftsman, a human being. Paul now sees the world as envisioned by God: not a divided world of boundaries and borders and flags and uniforms, but of sisters and brothers who share the dignity of being made in the Creator's image. That's the miracle we celebrate today. What happens in the story of Pentecost is more than a miracle of instantaneous translation:**

Continued



## Reflect

### “All Quiet on the Western Front” (continued)

the Spirit of God breaks through the barriers of language and culture to create a community of empathy and respect, bringing different peoples together as the one people of God. It's the Spirit of God that enables us to listen as well as speak, to see from the perspective of another in order to find a common path to travel together, to find solutions to problems that incorporate the gifts of all for the good of all.

#### “Did you ever get into any fights?”

A little girl asked her grandfather, "Did you and grandma ever get into any fights?" The grandfather replied: "We don't talk about it very often, but there was a time when we were not getting along very well. We seemed to be picking on each a lot and finding all kinds of things to argue about and really getting on one another's nerves. Well, one day I came in from the garden and I heard a voice upstairs. I went to the stairs and heard your grandmother telling God what she could not bring herself to tell me." "Well, what did you do?" asked the grand-daughter. "I quietly walked up the stairs," he replied, "and knelt down beside her and told God my side of the story. And from that day to this, we have never had a problem which we couldn't resolve by talking it over with each other and with God."

***Do you think the Holy Spirit was active in that couples' marriage? There can be no doubt. Conflict will always remain part of every relationship. The fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control – will always remain critical for happy relationships with others.***

#### Observe Pentecost Every day!

"It will always be Pentecost in the church," affirmed 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*, The Plough Pub. Co., Farmington, PA: 1998).

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. 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." 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 Cardinal Newman's favorite little prayer,

**“Come Holy Spirit:”**

**"Oh, it sleeps about eighty!"**

A family driving a large camper pulled up in front of the church just as the pastor started toward home. Desiring to be friendly, the pastor introduced himself and expressed his admiration for the camper. The man of the family told him rather proudly: "This camper sleeps eight people." Then he asked: "What is the capacity of your church, Pastor?" The beleaguered pastor replied rather glumly, "Oh, it sleeps about eighty." It is embarrassing sometimes how little the modern day churches resemble the Church that first Pentecost: the sound of a wind-storm, tongues of fire, disciples speaking in different languages, thousands being added to the Church and lots of excitement -- excitement everywhere!

***If we don't want our church to be a sleepy community, then we need to permit the Holy Spirit to take control of our lives. How?***

- 1) By constantly remembering His holy presence and behaving well.***
- 2) By praying for His daily anointing so that we may fight against our temptations and control our evil tendencies, evil habits and addictions.***
- 3) By asking His daily assistance to pray, listening to God through meditative Bible reading and talking to Him.***
- 4) By asking the help of the Holy Spirit to do good for others and to get reconciled to God and others every day.***



## 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 of 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. But years ago, *This Rock Magazine* reported that there are now 34,000 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.

### **Pentecost is celebrated by both Jews and Christians!**

**Pentecost** literally means 50<sup>th</sup>. It is a feast celebrated on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the Passover feast by the Jews, who originally had it as a post-harvest thanksgiving feast. Later, the Jews included in it, the remembrance of God's Covenants with Noah after the Deluge and with Moses at Mt. Sinai. The Christians celebrated it as a feast on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.



## High tide of the Holy Spirit

A ship strayed off course near San Diego some years back. It became stuck in a reef at low tide. Twelve tugboats were unsuccessful in their attempts to budge it. Finally, the captain instructed the tugs to go back home. He sighed, "I'll just be patient and wait." He waited until high tide. All of a sudden the ocean began to rise. What human power could not do, the rising tide of the Pacific Ocean did. It lifted that ship and put it back into the channel. Something like that happened to the early Church on the Day of Pentecost. They were all together in one place – confused, unmotivated and fearful – when suddenly the tide of Holy Spirit rolled in.

### **The role of the Holy Spirit in Christian life:**

- 1) **As an indwelling God, He makes us His Living Temples (1 Cor 3:16).**
- 2) **As a strengthening God, He strengthens us in our fight against temptations and in our mission of bearing witness to Christ by transparent Christian lives.**
- 3) **As a sanctifying God, He makes us holy through the sacraments: a) He makes us children of God and heirs of heaven through Baptism. b) He makes us temples of God, warriors and defenders of faith, through Confirmation. c) He enables us to be reconciled to God by pardoning our sins through Reconciliation. d) He gives us spiritual nourishment via the Holy Eucharist by converting bread and wine into Jesus' body and blood through Epiclesis.**
- 4) **As a teaching and guiding God, He clarifies and constantly reminds us of Christ's teachings.**
- 5) **As a listening and talking God, He listens to our prayers and enables us to pray, and He speaks to us mainly through the Bible.**
- 6) **As a giver of gifts, He gives us His gifts, fruits and charisms.**

## The Holy Spirit is at work in your life; but do you see?



The Holy Spirit, the Helper is quietly at work: in the sincere concern of a friend for our health; in the generosity of those who give us so much help; in the inner strength we discover in times of crisis; in those moments when we admit that we have been wrong; in making a tough choice; in the resilience of people who face one bad thing after another; in times when we have dared to love even though it was hard to do so. The Holy Spirit, the Helper is quietly at work: in our taking on responsibilities that we once thought beyond us; in our refusing to let the greed of society take over our soul; in our giving thanks always even though times have been hard;

Continued

**The Holy Spirit is at work in your life; but do you see?**  
Continued

In our rising above past failures and putting past hurts behind us; in our finding a central core of peace in the midst of turmoil; in an adult patiently teaching a child self-esteem and self-control; in the person sitting quietly beside a hospital bed; in a parent praying for a troubled son or daughter. The Spirit calls us to repentance, to turn our lives around; He calls us to Faith and to take up our cross and follow Jesus. However we look at the Holy Spirit, He is always our Helper, always helping us to be what God made us to be. He helps us to be

truly great, namely, to be servants to one another. Likewise the Spirit promotes Jesus in our lives; He gathers us around the cross of Jesus; He changes our lives, helping us to be more patient and forgiving, to seek new beginnings in our relationships with one another and to let the power of God's love have the final say over the conflicts we get into. He is available to us every moment of every day as we face the choices between self-centeredness or being the God-centered people the Spirit has called us to be in Christ.

**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](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net) or (732) 828-1400 ext.121.



**Pray**



**Silver & Gold Wedding Anniversary Celebration**



You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Metuchen and renew your marriage vows with Bishop James F. Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen on **Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 3:00 PM**. Registration is required.

Please register online at: <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration>.

If you are unable to access, please contact the Family Life Office at 732-562-1543 or [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org). Registration will close on **October 6, 2023**. Although no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given a donation of gratitude to the Church in memory of this special occasion. Donations of Gratitude may be made online at <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration> or calling 732-562-1543.



**ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

On behalf of Bishop James F. Checchio, all are invited to attend a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations and the Sanctification of Priests on **Friday, June 23, 2023, at 5 p.m.** at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen. Included in the intentions of this Holy Hour are Deacon Jose Lim, who will be ordained a priest the following day, and the sanctification of all priests of our diocese. All are also invited to the Priesthood Ordination, which will take place on Saturday, June 24, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen.

On this day, Bishop Checchio will ordain Deacon Jose Lim as a priest for service in the Diocese of Metuchen.

Access to the live-stream and updates about the ordination can be found on the diocesan website: [diometuchen.org/ordinations](https://www.diometuchen.org/ordinations).



## Pray



## UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The USCCB has requested of all parishes.

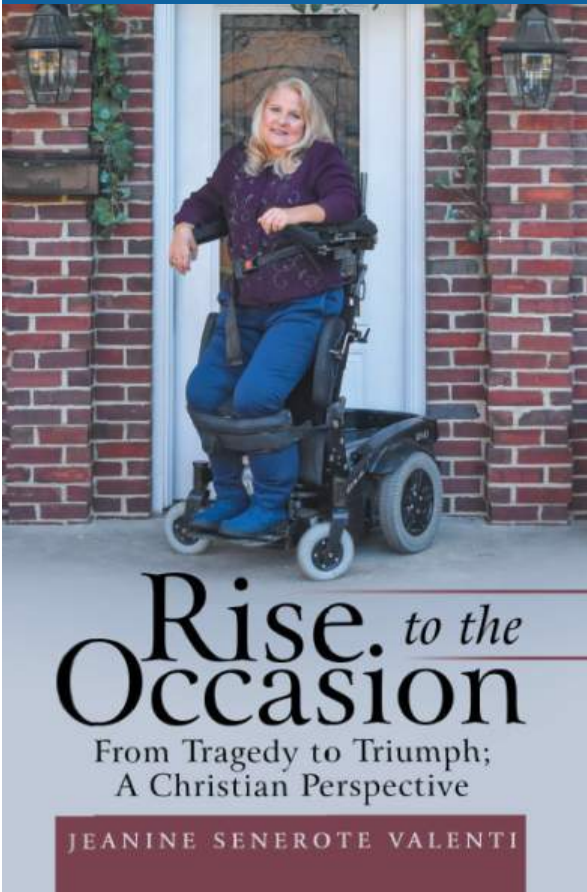
In anticipation of the first session of the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops taking place this October, the Holy See's General Secretariat of the Synod has asked Catholics to observe a moment of prayer on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, placing the Synod under her protection.

Bishop Checchio is asking the parishes of the diocese to pray the Synod prayer at Masses on the weekend of May 27/28 and at daily Mass on May 31.

### Prayer for the Synod

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.  
All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## Connect



### A BOOK SIGNING BY ONE OF OUR OWN

Jeanine Valenti, our parishioner, has written her memoir, "Rise to the Occasion." She is inviting everyone to her book signing event on **Monday, June 5, at 7 pm** in our church. Here's a brief info about the book:

On November 23, 2001, one tragic second changed almost everything author Jeanine Senerote Valenti knew in her life. A thirty-seven-year-old mother of three children under the ages of ten, she experienced an accident that affected her career, her future, her home, and her body. What didn't waiver was her family, her husband, her three children, and their strong Christian faith. In fact, their faith in God grew to gigantic proportions through small miracles.

In *Rise to the Occasion*, she narrates the two parts to her story—the pre-injured part that holds many wonderful memories, and the post-injured part that has been transformative and gratifying in ways she couldn't imagine or predict. Her pre-injured life was Valenti's "Plan A" when she thought she controlled her destiny. That plan ended abruptly when she became a quadriplegic in one cruel second.

In this memoir, she tells how God taught her he isn't the cause of injury and why tragedies occur, especially to good people. He woke Valenti up from sound sleep on several occasions to guide her in her journey toward healing and writing.





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

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

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

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

**General Admission** is \$75.00

**Student Admission** is \$25.00

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

If you have any questions, please contact:

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



## MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

Why not celebrate the Easter Season by treating you and your spouse to a Marriage Encounter Weekend? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held **July 14 - 16**. Please apply ASAP as space is limited. Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco). Visit us at: [www.wvme.org](http://www.wvme.org) for more information.

## 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	<b>\$33,837.66</b>	\$32,720.75
Week 46 - May 14, 2023	\$10,860.50	\$17,729.25	<b>\$28,589.75</b>	\$25,629.25
Week 47 - May 21, 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$19,720.25
Week 48 - May 28, 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$19,260.42
			<b>Month-to-date To-</b>	<b>May Total Last Yr</b>
			<b>\$62,427.41</b>	\$97,330.67
			<b>Current Year-to-</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of</b>
			<b>\$1,263,143.73</b>	\$1,257,013.06

### Stewardship Reflection May 28, 2023 Pentecost Sunday

***"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:7)***

To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit you must open your heart and invite Him in! Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, words, and actions every day! Be grateful for all the gifts God has given you! Regardless of our individual circumstances, God has given all of us many blessings. What we do with those gifts is our gift back to God! By generously sharing everything we have and everything we are, we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered" and our lives truly reflect God's light, love, and mercy.

### Reflexiónese 28de mayo de 2023 Domingo de Pentecostés

***"A cada uno se le da la manifestación del Espíritu para el bien común". (1 CORINTIOS 12:7)***

¡Para recibir el don del Espíritu Santo, debes abrir tu corazón e invitarlo a entrar! ¡Pídele al Espíritu Santo que guíe tus pensamientos, palabras y acciones todos los días! ¡Agradece todos los regalos que Dios te ha dado! Independientemente de nuestras circunstancias individuales, Dios nos ha dado muchas bendiciones. ¡Lo que hacemos con esos regalos es nuestro regalo a Dios! Al compartir generosamente todo lo que tenemos y todo lo que somos, nos volvemos más "centrados en Dios" y menos "egocéntricos", y nuestras vidas realmente reflejan la luz, el amor y la misericordia de Dios.

## Serve



The next Morning of Service will be held on **Saturday, June 3rd**. If you are interested in volunteering that morning, please email John and Coleen Zdziarski at [jzdzarski@comcast.net](mailto:jzdzarski@comcast.net). Please note that those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. The sites are:

1. Franklin Food Bank - 224 Churchill Avenue in Somerset - sorting canned goods, etc. (from 8:15 - 12:00 noon; limited to six people - minimum age is 14)
2. Pregnancy Aid Center - 59 Thompson Street in Raritan - sorting children's clothing (from 9:30 - 12:00 noon; limited to eight people)

## Connect with Our Local Community



**Tuesday, Jun 20, 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 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  
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### 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](mailto:rosepeng@optonline.net)  
John Taylor, [jptaylor1068@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:@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](http://www.stmatthias.net/join-us), or visit the Parish Office.

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

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

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



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



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Tuesday, 10/11	Tuesday, 11/08
Tuesday, 10/18	Tuesday, 11/15
Tuesday, 10/25	Tuesday, 11/29

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