



St. Matthias Parish Office

Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm,
168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866
www.stmatthias.net

Mass Schedule (in person):

Sat - 5 PM, Sun - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 noon
M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00 AM
also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
School Office Hours,
Monday-Friday 7:45AM to 3:30PM

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

Anthony Baio, **Maintenance** **abaio**
Deacon Ron Caimi, **Senior Deacon**
Maria Cornier, **Parish Secretary** **mcornier**
Kelly Counts, **Receptionist** **kcounts**
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
Nathalie Godet, **Website & Bulletin Editor**,
ngodet

Amy Hanna, **Accountant/Databases**, **ahanna**
Mike Lanyi, **Sacristan**, **mlanyi**
Sue Lenczewski, **Youth Coordinator**, **SMYLE**
Julio Montero, **Maintenance Supervisor**
Debra Schurko, **Director of Religious Education**,
dschurko

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

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025

3rd Sunday of Easter



Teacher Appreciation Week!
*We salute all our teachers - of St. Matthias and
of other schools - for their indispensable role
in educating the students in academics,
character, and faith. Thank you!*



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

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
MAY 5, 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
 place.

May is the Month of Mary

Sunday, May 4, 2025 **3rd Sunday of Easter**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	OCIA	de Porres Rm
11:00AM	First Sunday Rosary	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, May 5, 2025 **St. Judith of Prussia,
Patroness of Prussia**

CINCO DE MAYO / TEACHERS APPRECIATION WEEK

8:00AM	Mass	Church
5:30PM	Cursillo Meeting	de Porres Rm
6:00PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00PM	Cub Scout Pack 195 Mtg.	Cafeteria

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 **St. Dominic Savio, Student**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:30PM	Search Committee	Ruiz Room
7:30PM	SVDP Society Meeting	de Porres Rm

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 **St. Rosa Venerini,
Foundress**

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

Thursday, May 8, 2025 **St. Magdalena of Canossa,
Virgin & Foundress**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	Children's Choir Last Rehearsal	Church
4:00PM	Children's Choir Last Rehearsal	Church
6:30PM	Search Committee	de Porres Rm
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

Friday, May 9, 2025 **St. George Preca, Priest**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	Middle School Science Fair	Cafeteria
6:45PM	Boy Scout Troop 154 Mtg	St. John XXIII Rm

Saturday, May 10 , 2025 **St. Damian de Veuster,
Priest & Missionary**

11:00AM	First Holy Communion	Church
2:30PM	Gillian's Renewal of Vows	Church
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

Sunday, May 11, 2025 **4th Sunday of Easter
MOTHER'S DAY**

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

BULLETIN ARTICLE REQUESTS:

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

A Message From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

Today is the fourth day in May and many of us know this date as the Star Wars Day because of the phrase, "May the force be with you," used by Jedi masters in the Star Wars movies. While not officially declared, the holiday has been embraced by fans and the Walt Disney Company. I have seen our school students having fun on this day in the past when it fell on a weekday.

I always smile at this phrase of Jedi "May the force be with you," because even though the sci-fi community in general does not acknowledge the existence of God, this phrase sounds to me, as a clear admission that there is a higher power beyond their control and as their way of surrendering the outcome of a dangerous mission to this higher power they name as "Force" that we Christians name as God or Jesus Christ.

Today we conclude the Novendiales or Novena in memory of Pope Francis whose passing brought an unprecedented focus on the Catholic Church in general, and the papacy of Francis in particular. As I mentioned in my homily, it is very important and beneficial for us to reflect on the legacy of Pope Francis. Some asked me about the criticisms of Francis. My only answer is that Jesus himself was criticized and so why are we surprised that Pope Francis is also criticized! And on every point of criticism, I pointed out that Francis was doing exactly the mind of Jesus, even when it brought about some ambiguity and confusion which was meant to make us all re-think and re-evaluate our own attitudes. Therefore let us reflect on how we might personally have grown because of his words, writings, and witness.

What made Pope Francis so endearing to the whole world? As the archbishop of Buenos Aires, Bergolio was unpopular with many Argentine politicians because he had been a staunch and brave critic of the corruption and economic inequality there. During Argentina's military dictatorship in the 1970's, he was sent into de facto exile in Frankfurt, Germany, and then to the remote Córdoba, Argentina. These difficult years shaped his compassionate worldview and strengthened his resolve to stand with those facing injustice.

Besides his political activism, what often endeared Pope Francis to all was his simplicity, coupled with his tireless immersion in poor communities. The world saw the way he was able to blend in with the very ordinary people. While his actions of humility and simplicity raised many eyebrows in the establishment, he became all the more endearing to the world. Asking for a blessing from the crowds at his first appearance as pope, refusing to live in the luxurious penthouse of the papal apartments and choosing the modest two-room suite in the Vatican's Saint Martha guesthouse, carrying his own luggage and paying his own hotel bills, washing the feet of women and even non catholic prisoners, driving a modest, 20-year-old white Renault, wearing the black leather shoes instead of the traditional red papal footwear, ... the list goes on, a list that made him very unique in the history of the papacy.

But his teachings and writings have promoted a spirituality that is easy for even the very ordinary folks to understand and relate to. All of us can learn a lot from Pope Francis to be simple and humble. We too can spread the joy of the gospel as he did so warm-heartedly. May he rest in peace.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday Acts 6:8-15 Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday Acts 7:51—8:1a Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday Acts 8:1b-8 Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a Jn 6:35-40

Thursday Acts 8:26-40 Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 Jn 6:44-51

Friday Acts 9:1-20 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Jn 6:52-59

Saturday Acts 9:31-42 Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 Jn 6:60-69

Sunday Acts 13:14, 43-52 Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., May 3	5:00 PM	Marion Fischer by The Fischer Family
Sun., May 4	8:00 AM	Intention for Parishioners
	10:00 AM	Birthday Blessings for Francisca Busono by The Busono Family
	12:00 PM	Francis Probus Frankenberger by Oliver Family
Mon., May 5	8:00 AM	Barbara Barry by The Busono Family
Tues., May 6	8:00 AM	Joan, Raymond and Mark Felton by Claire Gatarz
Wed., May 7	8:00 AM	Mass of Thanksgiving for Maria DeFeo by Lisa DeFeo
Thurs., May 8	8:00 AM	Susan and James Shinnery by Mary
Fri., May 9	8:00 AM	Darrie Christmas by Wife, Dolores
Sat., May 10	5:00 PM	Stella and Joseph Michaski by Russell and Monica Demkovitz
Sun., May 11	8:00 AM	Mary Eads by Cook & Eads Family
	10:00 AM	All Mothers - Living & Deceased
	12:00 PM	Intention for Parishioners

Pray for those who are sick...

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

New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.

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

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Ross Trischetti, father of Linda Misuraca, Denis McGrath

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



What is the strongest fish?

A mussel! 😊

Why didn't Noah do much fishing on the ark?

He had only two worms. 😊

Game warden: Didn't you see the no-fishing sign, son?

Boy: I'm not fishing, sir. I'm teaching these worms how to swim! 😊

A man was fishing near a swampy area of the river. After a while, another angler came to join him. "Have you had any bites?" asked the second man. "Yes, lots," replied the first one. "But they were all mosquitoes." 😊

Little Eddy and his mom were digging for fishing bait in the garden. Uncovering a many-legged creature, Eddy proudly dangled it before his mom. "No, honey, it won't do for bait," she said. "It's not an earthworm." Eddy asked, his eyes wide: "It's not? What planet is it from?" 😊

One day, a rather inebriated ice fisherman drilled a hole in the ice and peered into the hole, and a loud voice from above said, "There are no fish down there." He walked several yards away and drilled another hole and peered into the hole, and again the voice said, "There's no fish down there." He then walked about 50 yards away and drilled another hole, and again the voice said, "There's no fish down there." He looked up into the sky and asked, "God, is that you?" "No, you idiot," the voice said, "it's the rink manager." 😊

Mother to daughter advice: "Cook a man a fish and you feed him for a day. But teach a man to fish and you get rid of him for the whole weekend." 😊

A monastery is in financial trouble, so it goes into the fish-and-chips business to raise money. One night a customer knocks on its door. A monk answers. The customer asks, "Are you the fish friar?" "No," he replies. "I'm the chip monk." 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

After the resurrection, several disciples were walking to Emmaus and talking about what had happened. Take a long walk with your child this weekend. Observe; pay attention if someone crosses your path. Be open to conversation or let nature speak to you of the God of creation.

Marriage Tune-Up



"Two of Jesus' disciples were walking to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus and they were talking about all the things that had occurred." (Luke 24:13)
Take a walk today- just the two of you. Talk. Be conscious of Jesus presence.

PRE-RELEASE SCREENING

TRIUMPH of the HEART

The untold story of St. Maximilian
Kolbe's passion



MAY 17, 2025 7:00 P.M.

Immaculata High School Theater
240 Mountain Ave, Somerville, NJ 08876

Doors Open at 6:30 P.M.

Scan the QR Code for more details
and to Purchase Tickets

Questions? Contact the host, Pete Knob
PETEKNOBTOH@GMAIL.COM



BIT.LY/TOTH-DIOCESE-NJ

SCREENING OF A MOVIE

You are invited to attend an advance screening of
"Triumph of the Heart,"

www.triumphoftheheart.com,

a new movie about St. Maximilian Kolbe.

The advance screening will be held at **Immaculata High School Theater** on **Saturday, May 17 at 7 pm**. Seating is limited, so you are encouraged to purchase tickets. Please scan the QR code.

Deacon Steven Greydanus of Decent Films, www.decentfilms.com, will be conducting a Q&A with Anthony D'Ambrosio, the writer and director of the film, immediately following the screening.



A VIGIL FOR FORGIVENESS

Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and said to Jesus, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." John 21: 1-19

After much thought and prayer, she decided to volunteer. Cynthia Rios-Myers decided to go to pray for one hour outside of an abortion center near her home in San Diego. As so many others in her parish and community had done, she would stand alone on the sidewalk, quietly on the corner, carrying no sign or other visual expression of protest. She would simply pray the rosary. This was deeply personal to her - because many years before she had been one of the women she was now praying for. Ms. Rios-Myers writes of her vigil in the magazine **Commonweal** [February 12, 2016]:

"I knew that, in their own minds at least, the girls entering the clinic were not doing any evil; they were frightened, and perhaps desperate. I know these things, because many years ago, I visited an abortion center. Twice . . . I was eighteen and involved with a bad man whom I could not say no to. I didn't yet know that abuse is not always delivered by punches, kicks and slaps. All I knew was that my relationship with him was devouring my soul, and I had to end it. I terminated my first pregnancy, and that should have been lesson enough. But it wasn't. I stayed with the bad man and got pregnant again. He blamed that one on me. After my second abortion, I got away from him, but the damage was done. The guilt and horror of what I'd done turned part of my soul black; I'd carry that forever.

Standing outside the abortion clinic, I prayed for specific things. I prayed for the souls of the babies whose lives were ended. I prayed for the women who had abortions. I prayed for women in relationships that cost them their happiness, safety, and their sense of self. I prayed for myself, too . . . I know that women seeking an abortion don't need me to hold a sign saying that they are doing evil things. But maybe if they see me praying, they'll pray themselves. Maybe some of them will think about the Blessed Virgin Mary and how hard her unplanned pregnancy was. Maybe they'll think of her son and see him in their own unborn children. I can't undo what I did, but I can at least share my story, and stand for an hour, and pray, for whoever needs my prayers. So that is what I will continue to do."

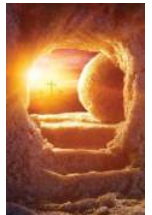
No one is beyond forgiveness and reconciliation with God. Today's Gospel is a beautiful story of such redeeming forgiveness. The Risen Jesus asks Peter three times - the same number of times that Peter denied him - to profess his love for him. We can hear the pain and hurt in Peter's voice - but also his conviction - in his response after Jesus asks Peter a third time if he loves him: "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus is not taunting Peter here but calling Peter to move beyond the past and to take on the challenges of apostleship. In forgiving Peter as he does, in affecting reconciliation with Peter, Jesus transforms Peter's regrets and shame into understanding of and commitment to the Gospel the fisherman has witnessed. In her witness and prayers at the clinic, Cynthia and those of like heart mirror, not the judgment of Jesus, but the forgiveness of Jesus to move beyond the past

to the possibilities for resurrection and restoration. Their prayer expresses their belief that these women and their families can move on from this tragedy to a new perspective and appreciation of God's gift of life. The Easter Christ calls Peter and his brothers and now all of us to take on his work of reconciliation: to possess - despite our doubts and disappointments - the heart of the Risen Jesus to forgive and seek forgiveness, to be the means of enabling God's mercy to be realized in our own families, neighborhoods and communities.

THE SUN RISING

The editor of one of the leading religious newspapers was walking along some cliffs near Eastbourne, England, one Easter morning. In his walk he met an old fisherman, and during their conversation together, the editor was struck by the simple faith of the old fisherman in his risen Savior. "How do you know that Jesus has risen?" he asked. "Sir," came the reply, "do you see those cottages near the cliffs? Well, sir, sometimes when I am far out at sea I know that the sun has risen by the light that reflected by yon cottage windows. How do I know that Christ has risen? Why, sir, do I not see his light reflected from the faces of some of my fellows every day, and do I not feel the light of his glory in my own life? As soon tell me that the sun has not risen when I see his reflected glory, as tell me that my Lord is not risen."

Peter was called upon to prove his love: "If you love me, feed my sheep." The same Risen Lord reminds us: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). What do our present actions and activities say about our love for Christ? The Risen Jesus accepts our apology, dismisses the charges against us, exonerates us of guilt, and forgives all our weaknesses. He continues to challenge us to demonstrate our love for him by faithfully, freely, feeding his sheep entrusted to our care.



"WE ARE WINNING!"

A young boy was playing left field in a Little League game when a man yelled over the fence, "Hey son, who's winning?" The little boy replied, "We are!" "What's the score?" "They have 23 -- We have 0." "They have you 23 to 0?" The man was confused. "I thought you said you were winning." "Oh, we are," explained the little boy. "You see, we ain't come to bat yet!"

It was easy for the disciples to quit. The One in Whom they had placed their hopes was dead. It was 23 to nothing in their life that Easter morning. Let us compensate for our moments of weakness. We need to work with the Risen Lord and plan all our activities with his blessing, after consulting him in prayer and receiving his instruction. Let us pray that we may be a Church that continues in that Gospel lifestyle of fishing for people, of tending the sheep and feeding them with the word of life.



SUPERMAN:

"DON'T WORRY, MISS, I'VE GOT YOU."

Our tendency is to look for Christ in the extraordinary, the spectacular, the breathtaking. Remember in *Superman: The Movie* when Superman first reveals his superpowers to the world? Lois Lane is dangling from a cable, high atop the *Daily Planet* building, screaming at the top of her lungs. Just as she begins her long fall to earth, Superman changes into his flashy red, yellow, and blue outfit and swoops up to catch her in midair. "Don't worry, Miss," he assures her, "I've got you." "You've got me," she exclaims. "Who's got you?" Just then the helicopter that has been perched on the edge of the building begins to fall straight toward them and the crowd below. But Superman merely grabs it with his one free arm and gently sets both it and Lois safely back on the landing pad. When he turns to leave, an astonished Lois stammers out the words, "Who ARE you?" "A friend," Superman replies warmly, and as he flies straight up into the air with a sort of half twist, Lois faints in a heap. [Jack Kuhatschek, *The Superman Syndrome* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995), p. 133.] ***That's the way we would like to have Christ to come to us. And that is why we miss Him. Christ reveals Himself as He has always revealed Himself – "through the Word and through the Sacraments," that is, through the study of Scripture and the Breaking of the Bread. That is why, when we need encouragement, we go to our Bibles or we go to our Church because there Christ is revealed in all his glory.***

THE TRIPLE CONFESSION AND COMMISSIONING OF PETER

One of the features of the stories about the appearances of Jesus after his Resurrection is that they nearly always end up with Jesus commissioning someone. Jesus appears for a purpose. The presence of Jesus is strongly linked with the sense of calling. Peter denied Jesus three times on the night of Jesus' arrest (18:17, 25, 27), and repented; now, Jesus is offering him three chances to redeem himself. So Jesus first dealt with Peter's sin and then commissioned him to work on His behalf. Jesus asks twice if Peter loves him with the deeper, stronger, and more sacrificial kind of *agape* love and not mere *phileo* love involving brotherly love or friendship. In any event, "the one thing about which Jesus questioned Peter prior to commissioning him to tend the flock, was love. This is the basic qualification for Christian service. Other qualities may be desirable, but love is completely indispensable (cf. 1 Cor. 13:1-3)." (Paul Avent, *Study John's Gospel*, Volume II). By this triple confession, Peter is restored to the leadership position from which he had fallen by his triple denial. Furthermore, it is proclaimed that he is indeed a pastor, who is to show his love for Christ in feeding Christ's sheep, a recycling of denial into affirmation. Peter's rehabilitation is a celebration of Divine Grace. As the shepherd appointed by the True Shepherd, to do as He did, to care for the sheep, Peter also symbolizes leadership. "Feed My lambs," will continue to be the agenda of the post-Resurrection Church until the risen Lord appears in glory.

"I DARE YOU TO DO THIS, BUT I BET YOU CAN'T!"

The Bishop of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris during the early part of the last century was a great evangelizer who tried to reach out to unbelievers, scoffers, and cynics. He liked to tell the story of a young man who would stand outside the Cathedral and shout derogatory slogans at the people entering to worship. He would call them fools and other insulting names. The people tried to ignore him but it was difficult. One day the parish priest went outside to confront the young man, much to the distress of the parishioners. The young man ranted and raved against everything the priest told him.

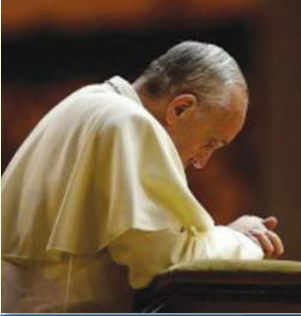
Finally, the priest addressed the young scoffer, saying, "Look, let's get this over with once and for all. I'm going to dare you to do something and I bet you can't do it." And of course the young man shot back, "I can do anything you propose, you white-robed wimp!" "Fine," said the priest. "All I ask you to do is to come into the sanctuary with me. I want you to stare at the figure of Christ on His cross, and I want you to scream at the very top of your lungs, as loudly as you can. 'Christ died on the cross for me, and I don't care one bit.'" So the young man went into the sanctuary, and looking at the figure, screamed as loudly as he could, "Christ died on the cross for me, and I don't care one bit." The priest said, "Very good. Now do it again." And again the young man screamed, with a little more hesitancy, "Christ died on the cross for me, and I don't care one bit." "You're almost done now," said the priest. "One more time." The young man raised his fist, kept looking at the crucifix, but the words wouldn't come. He just could not look at the face of Christ and say those words any more.

The real punch line came when, after he told the story, the bishop said, "I was that young man. That young man, that defiant young man was I. I thought I didn't need God but found out that I did."

Our First reading today from Acts 5: 27-32, 40-41 describes how the Apostles experienced opposition from the Jewish leaders who brought them before the Sanhedrin and ordered to stop teaching in the name of Jesus. This was the second time the Apostles had been arrested by the Sanhedrin -- the Jewish Supreme Court. When the High Priest demanded that Peter and his companions listen to him and obey his orders, Peter replied, "We must obey God rather than men." Then they testified to God's raising of Jesus as Savior "to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins." Although they were flogged and given strict order not to repeat the "crime," the Apostles went away "rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer for the sake of Jesus' name."



Pray



Novendiales at St. Matthias

Today we conclude the Novendiales – the official mourning period in memory of Pope Francis that we began on April 26. We had been using a Novena prepared by the USCCB to pray for the Pope during this time. It consisted of a short reading from Scripture or some other ecclesiastical text and some brief prayers, including orations drawn from the Roman Missal and the Order of Christian Funerals. For those who wish to have a look at it, here's the link that you can access: www.usccb.org/novena-memory-pope-francis



Come pray with us on Our Lady of Fatima's Feast Day on May 13, 2025 at 7pm!

There will be a Healing Mass with Rev. John Campoli, I.V. Dei at Our Lady of Peace Church in North Brunswick. All are welcome to attend this celebration of God's Healing Love & Mercy.

The Mass is sponsored by the Parish Columbiettes.

For more information please see: www.frjohncampoli.com

Our Lady of Peace Church - 1730 US Hwy 130, North Brunswick, NJ 08902



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.



NURSING SERVICES FUNDING

Young Catholics are a valued treasure and the future leaders of our Church. It is the responsibility of the entire Catholic community to help make our Catholic elementary and secondary schools available, accessible, and affordable to all Catholics of every socioeconomic status.

When it comes to state funding for Catholic schools, an especially important area for these schools is school health services in the form of a state-funded nurse when students are in the building.

NJCC recently issued an Action Alert asking you to put your faith into action by contacting your representatives in the New Jersey Legislature to express your support for increased funding in this especially important area. The process for doing so is simple and can be accomplished with a few clicks.

Please visit www.stmatthias.net/nursing-services-funding for more information.



NEW JERSEY
CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



GRANDPARENTS AND SENIORS DAY

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

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

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

Learn



CAMP INVENTION AT ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL!

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



Camp Invention®

Thanks to rave reviews from campers, parents, and teachers, we're bringing **Camp Invention** back for its 8th year at St. Matthias School!

Even better, our 2025 program is full of all-new, hands-on STEM fun! Don't miss out — register students going into grades Kindergarten through 6th grade at invent.org/camp until camp starts.

Register by May 15th using **FUN15** to save \$15!

If you have multiple children use **SIBLOVE30** to save \$30 for 2 siblings and **SIBLOVE40** to save \$40 for 3 or more siblings!

Contact Camp Director, Christine Taylor at ctaylor@stmatthiasnj.org for any questions.

For students 7th grade to 9th grade, you can register as Leaders-in-Training to help support the teachers at a discounted registration fee and for students 10th grade and up you can get 40 volunteer hours by registering and helping that week!



GIFT REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2025-2026

Religious Education includes the **G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together)** program, which is for families with children in grades K-Grade 8 or for anyone who wishes to grow in faith. GIFT is an intergenerational faith formation process that recognizes that faith formation is life-long. All public school children in grades K-8 must be registered in this program to be eligible to enter immediate sacramental preparation programs.

To register for 2025-2026 please visit: www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation

Serve



MORNING OF SERVICE

The next Morning of Service will be held on **Saturday, May 10th**. If you are interested in volunteering that morning, please email: **John and Coleen Zdziarski** at 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.
Minimum age is 14. Limited to six people (8:00 AM - 12:30 PM).
2. **Pregnancy Aid Center** - 59 Thompson Street in Raritan - sorting children's clothing.

Limited to eight people (9:30 AM- 12:00 noon).

Connect

HOMESCHOOLING MOMS RETREAT – JUNE 14

The Office of Homeschool Ministry and the Office of Discipleship Formation for Children are hosting a retreat for Homeschooling Moms on **Saturday, June 14th** at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, located at 146 Metlars Lane in Piscataway. The retreat will feature veteran Catholic Homeschooling Mom Jenny Bales, founder of Heart of a Mother, a Catholic homeschool consulting company. The \$20 fee for the event includes a continental breakfast. The retreat begins with 9am Mass in the Pastoral Center chapel celebrated by Fr. Gilbert Starcher and will conclude by 12:30 pm.

Contact: Jill Kerekes at jkerekes@diometuchen.org for more information.

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

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 40 - Apr 6, 2025	\$10,660.00	\$18,522.00	\$29,182.00	\$31,080.50
Week 41 - Apr. 13, 2025	\$15,327.00	\$21,300.50	\$36,627.50	\$29,383.50
Week 42 - Apr. 20, 2025	\$35,588.00	\$13,917.50	\$49,505.50	\$21,477.40
Week 43 - Apr. 27, 2025	\$7,695.50	\$9,243.80	\$16,939.30	\$19,573.20
Holy Thursday: \$3,043.00			Month-to-date Total	April Total Last Year
Good Friday: \$3,758.00			\$132,254.30	\$101,514.60
Easter Flower Offering: \$1,374.75			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of April 30, 2024
			\$1,133,228.85	\$1,058,947.95

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 4, 2025 3rd Sunday of Easter

“... Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, ‘Do you love me?’ and he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’” (John 21:17)

How often do you actually say the words “I love you” to Jesus, to family members, or to friends? We are made to be in relationship with God and each other. Sincerely telling someone that you love them is the best gift you can give them because it comes from your heart. You are giving them the gift of yourself. We all were made by love and for love. Tell someone you love them every day.

Reflexiónese – 4 de Mayo de 2025 Domingo 3° de Pascua

“... A Pedro le dolió que por tercera vez Jesús le hubiera preguntado: ‘¿Me quieres?’. Así que dijo: —Señor, tú lo sabes todo; tú sabes que te quiero. Jesús le dijo, ‘Apacienta mis ovejas.’” (Juan 21:17)

¿Qué tan a menudo usted le dice las palabras “te amo” a Jesús, a los miembros de su familia, o a sus amigos? Fuimos hechos para estar en una relación con Dios y con los demás. Decirle sinceramente a alguien que lo ama es el mejor regalo que puede darle porque viene directamente de su corazón. Usted les dará el don de usted mismo. Todos fuimos hechos por amor y para el amor. Cada día dígame a alguien que lo ama.



DIOCESE OF
METUCHEN

2025 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Theme: PILGRIMS OF HOPE: JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

All our parishioners must have received a letter about the Annual Bishop's Annual Appeal. Parishes throughout the Diocese of Metuchen are given a specific amount to raise. The 2025 BAA goal for St. Matthias is \$175,000. Our parish has already pledged **\$159,726.97 (91.27%)** of this goal - thanks to the good will and generosity of our parishioners. The goal is for every family to participate. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Together, we are keeping Christ's presence alive in the world today. Thank you for actively participating in this mission by your financial support.

Connecting to Our Local Community



The Women's Ministry of St. Cecilia
"Women Rooted in Faith"
 invite you to join us for our Annual

Ladies Tea Event

Our theme this year is: **"Putting on the Armor of God"**
 Esther 4:14 "Perhaps I was made for such a time as this."

Special Guest Speaker: Laura Phelps
 from "Walking With Purpose"
 Laura is a Catholic Author (Our Sunday Visitor) & National Speaker

register here by 5/20/25



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

Grab your most stylish hat and bring a friend.

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

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Fellowship & Music
- Hot Brunch
- Prayer & Reflection

MAIN SPEAKER:
 LISA COTTER
 "REVEAL THE GIFT"



OCTOBER 11, 2025
 9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

ST. JOHN NEUMANN PASTORAL CENTER
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\$30/PERSON
 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, VISIT:
[HTTPS://DIOMETUCHEN.ORG/HUMANLIFEANDDIGNITY](https://diometuchen.org/humanlifeanddignity)

HOUSE OF PRAYER STITCHERS OF HOPE **Wednesday, May 7 from 2-3pm**

Join us as we stitch for hope and create blankets, hats, and more for our partners helping cancer patients, veterans, and young mothers with babies: Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, Lyons VA, and The Center for Great Expectation. This is a great way to use your creativity to help others in need and where our stitches are filled with hope and prayer.

Starter kits will be provided. Hybrid. Freewill offering

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council: Co-Chairs: Stephen Busono sbusono@gmail.com Bill Isele t33sm@aol.com	Secretary: Sheila Tartaglia Members: Teresa Yannotta Joe Percoco Miles London	Fr. Lancelot McGrath Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio Trustees: Pearl Scott Marge Richards	Parish Finance Council: Kester Hector, Chair Finance Council @stmatthias.net Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Joan Pritchard	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
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About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

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

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

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

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



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

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