



St. Matthias Parish Office:

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

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

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

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

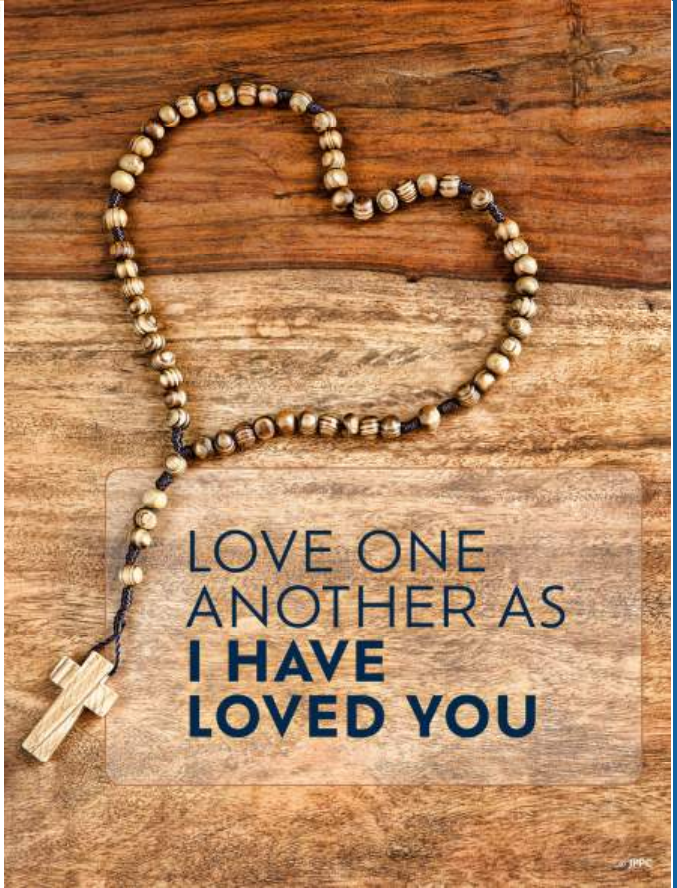
Leslie Guillen, **Bulletin Coordinator**, **lguillen**
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Dolores R. Nann, **Pastoral Associate for**
Faith Formation, **dnann**
Vinnie Natale, **Bookkeeper**, **vnatale**
Silvia Nizama, **Housekeeper**
Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
Joan Best Seamon, **Pastoral Associate for**
Music Ministry, **jseamon**
Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, **OSF, Pastoral**
Assoc. for Social Concerns, **msherwood**

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024
6th Sunday of Easter



Today's
Second
Collection
is for the
development
of the people
in Latin
America,
Africa,
Eastern
Europe, and
the
U.S. Home
Mission.



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



CONGRATULATIONS TO
DEVON K.
&
ALL SMS STUDENTS THAT
PARTICIPATED
IN THE CATHOLIC
MATH LEAGUE
COMPETITION
DETAILS ON PAGE 8

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

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

Sunday, May 5, 2024 6th Sunday of Easter
Development of the People Collection
 8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM Rosary Altar Society Mtg. St. John XXIII Rm
 12:00PM Mass Church

Cinco de Mayo

Monday, May 6, 2024 St. Dominic Savio, Student
Teacher Appreciation Week
 8:00AM Mass Church
 6:00PM Eucharist Adoration Church

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 St. Rose Venerini, Foundress of Venerini Sisters
National Teachers' Day
 8:00AM Mass Church
 7:30PM Handbell Choir rehearsal Church
 7:30PM SVPD Mtg. de Porres Rm

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 St. Magdalene of Canossa, Foundress of Daughters of Charity
 8:00AM Mass, St. Joseph Novena Church
 7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, May 9, 2024 St. George Preca, Priest
 8:00AM Mass Church
 3:30PM Children's Choir Rehearsal gr. 3&4 Church
 4:00PM Children's Choir Rehearsal gr. 5-8 Church
 7:30PM Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday, May 10, 2024 St. Damien, Priest & Missionary Father Damien of Molokai
 8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, May 11, 2024 St. Ignatius of Laconi, Monk
 12:00PM 1st Communion, #1 Church
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, May 12, 2024 Ascension Sunday
Mother's Day
 8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass –Interpreter Church
 11:00AM May Crowning after 10AM Mass Church
 12:00PM Mass Church



Bulletin Article Requests:

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



Dear Friends,

Many of us will remember **Pat Leposa** who was our staff member, doing ministry as Spiritual Director for twenty-four years, bringing much peace to the many under her spiritual guidance for discerning God’s will in their lives. In 2020, she decided to retire, due to failing health, and moved out of New Jersey to be with her family. Here’s an excerpt from her farewell message to the parish which was published in the bulletin then:

“It was twenty-four years ago that I began my ministry here at St. Matthias as your Spiritual Director. Coming to know and love the good people of this faith community has been my privilege. Now, I am excited to be moving on to the next chapter of my life. Even as my heart is filled with the joy and purpose that the last twenty-four years has blessed me with, I am deeply saddened at the prospect of leaving St. Matthias. As I go on to join my family in Montana, I am grateful for the countless ways that you, my St. Matthias family, have enriched me and strengthened my faith. It is though the experience of Spiritual Direction that I have been blessed to taste and see the goodness of the Lord. I will miss you.

If you are moved to draw closer to the God who loves you, and to seek out a new perspective in your life, then I urge you to consider Spiritual Direction. Inspired by the Spirit, it is through your visits with your spiritual advisor that you will become more aware of the many ways that God works in your life. Your visits will open your eyes, and your heart to enable you to embrace His love. It will provide you with the spiritual perspective to celebrate God’s goodness, even as you meet the challenges in your life. This investment in your spiritual health can be a life-changing experience.”

All those who knew her, and those of us who worked with her in the parish office, were saddened to know that **she passed away on December 30, 2023**. She was an embodiment of gentleness, compassion, listening, understanding, care and prayerfulness. She touched countless lives through her service including opening her home to a refugee Vietnamese family, Cursillo Christian retreats, Kairos prison ministries, and Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer in Watchung, NJ, where she was the first retreatant! She was most fulfilled through her 38 years as a Mercy Associate with the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and the first layperson to be a member of the NJ Associate Leadership Team. Pat also contributed to a CD of spiritual songs called *Tender Mercy* to raise funds for Mercy ministries in New Jersey.

We had announced her passing away and prayed for her at all the weekend Masses here at St. Matthias. I had offered a Memorial Mass at the House of Prayer in Watchung last month where her family and friends gathered to pay her tributes. **This Monday, the 8 am Mass is offered in her memory.** We gladly welcome her son John and other family and friends who plan to be present for this Mass. (John told me that he is flying in from North Carolina to attend this Mass!) The Parish Community of St. Matthias remains ever grateful to God for the gift of life and ministry of Pat Leposa. May she continue to intercede for us from her heavenly abode.

Your brother in Christ,
 Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday Acts 14:5-18 Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16
Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday Acts 14:19-28 Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday Acts 15:1-6 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 Jn 15:1-8

Thursday Acts 15:7-21 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 Jn 15:9-11

Friday 1 Cor 15:1-8 Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 Jn 14:6-14

Saturday Acts 16:1-10 Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5 Jn 15:18-21

Sunday Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 1 Jn 4:7-10 Jn 15:9-17

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May 4	5:00PM	Marty Slyman, by Al & Linda Misuraca
Sunday, May 5	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Oscar Poisler, by The Telyczka Family
	12:00PM	Erlina Liem & Tita Rahayu Disposunarjo, by Sukendro Family
Monday, May 6	8:00AM	In Memory of Pat Leposa, by the Family
Tuesday, May 7	8:00AM	In Memory of Marie DeFeo, by Daughter, Lisa
Wednesday, May 8	8:00AM	Susan & James Shiners, by Mary
Thursday, May 9	8:00AM	Patricio Daibilla, by Dolores
Friday, May 10	8:00AM	Albert Previte, by The Madison Family
Saturday, May 11	5:00PM	Bill Murphy, by The Family
Sunday, May 12	8:00AM	Deceased Members of the Lenczewski & Moley Families, by The Family
	10:00AM	Robert & Ursula Morgenberger, by their Daughters & Families
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for those who are sick...

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

Beth & Jay Adams	Sanora Doyen	Nick Isele	Jessica Marie Merrick	Sr. Bernadine Marie Stemnock
Rosario Anglo	Andrea Dubuisson	Renée Jolly	Gail Miranda	Catherine Steele
Kristin Baio	Dennis Enright	Donna Kahora	Menchie Molano-Sotelo	Anita Vance
Olga Marie Bando	Hattie Evans	Betsy Kondrat	Danny Ongchango	Eileen Weber
Carolyn Banghart	Heinley Gaspard	Kathy Langenbacher	Robert Pellegrino	Nancy Whelan
Brandon Barbarite	Claudia Gemgnani	Rose Larangeira	Robert Pietrowiak	Theresa Sau-Ling Yung
Ghislaine Baron	Emma Gergely	Armando D. Liban	Randolff Pinard	Ginette Zamor
Helen Bell	Claude Godet	Mary Lou Litrakis	Valerie Polci	Anne Zando
Samantha Bellouny	Marie Godet	John Litrakis	Kim Price	
Carmen Bender	Shelly Greene	Denis Loboda	Denise Pultro	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
Mary Bostrom	Linda Hartong	Aries Magali	Nina Ripley	
Tara Capatosto	Jeff Hentz	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Gabriel Rivera	
Elizabeth Card	Sloopy & PJ Hoffman	Al Maglio	Arina Robinson	
Rustico Castellano, Jr.	Gene Horan	Susan, King & Tosh Manansala	Bob Rotz	
Kyle Davidson	Marilyn Horvath	Alexandra Marquez	Maria Schwenzer	
Lisa DeFeo	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Christine Matthews	Amy Shepp	
Zenon DeGuzman	Amanda Isele	Ann McElwee	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	
Vivian Dong	Baby Elaine Isele			

Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

Josephine Printon,

Eileen Nelson,

Rosario Anglo,

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



A four-year-old was in church when the wine and communion wafers were passed out. He was very interested in this, and started to get up. His mother leaned over and told him that he was not old enough to partake in the Communion. Later, when the collection plate came by, he ignored it. His mother again leaned over and tried to coax the nickel out of him. He steadfastly refused, stating, "If I can't eat, I'm not paying." 😊

A man introduced his two new dogs to me. Their names were Rolex and Timex. I asked why these names, and he said, "Duh, they are watch dogs"! 😊

Dearest Kate, no words could ever express the great unhappiness I've felt since breaking our engagement. Please say you'll take me back. No one could ever take your place in my heart, so please forgive me. I love you, I love you, I love you! Yours forever, Jim... P.S. And congratulations on winning the 20 million state lottery. 😊

Johnny had been misbehaving and was sent to his room. After a while he emerged and informed his mother that he had thought it over and then said a prayer. "Fine", said the pleased mother. "If you ask God to help you not misbehave, He will help you."

"Oh, I didn't ask Him to help me not misbehave," said Johnny. "I asked Him to help you put up with me." 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

Do you value the persons in your life more than social media? If so, can you unplug for a week? Are you willing to free yourselves of digital devices (with the exception of work or school) for one full week. Experiment with human or outdoor entertainment.

Marriage Tune-Up



"Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." (1John 3:18)

Saying "I love you." is good. Doing an act of kindness is an even stronger testament of love.

Use both "love languages" once today.

Not Slaves but Friends!

Jesus tells his followers that he does not call them slaves anymore, but calls them friends. In the Bible, *doulos*, the slave, the servant of God was no title of shame; it was a title of the highest honor. Moses was the *doulos* of God (Deuteronomy 34:5); so was Joshua (Joshua 24:29); so was David (Psalm 89:20). It is a title which Paul counted it an honor to use (Titus 1:1); and so did James (James 1:1). The greatest men in the past had been proud to be called the *douli*, the slaves of God. But Jesus says: "I have something greater for you yet. You are no longer slaves; you are friends." Christ offers an intimacy with God which not even the greatest of men knew before Jesus came into the world. The idea of being the friend of God also has a Biblical background. Abraham was the friend of God (Isaiah 41:8). In Wisdom 7: 27, Wisdom is said to make us the friends of God. In Rome in the first century, the Friends of the king and the emperor were those who had the closest and the most intimate connection with him. Jesus has called us to be his friends and the friends of God. Jesus has given us this intimacy with God, so that He is no longer a distant stranger, but our close friend.



Marian Devotions - 1

In May of 2002 Pope John Paul II said, "Today we begin the month dedicated to Our Lady a favorite of popular devotion. In accord with a long-standing tradition of devotion, parishes and families continue to make the month of May a 'Marian' month, celebrating it with many devout liturgical, catechetical and pastoral initiatives!" During this month of Mary, let us be familiar with some of the popular Marian Devotions. Today let us briefly look at the Rosary:

Also called the Psalter of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Rosary is one of the most excellent prayers to the Mother of God. Thus, "the Roman Pontiffs have repeatedly exhorted the faithful to the frequent recitation of this biblically inspired prayer which is centered on contemplation of the salvific events of Christ's life, and their close association with the Virgin Mother."

Reflect

Creamer and Sugar Bowl on a Blue Tablecloth

"This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you." John 15: 9-17

For some time, Mother and Daughter lived at an affectionate arm's length, a kind of truce after a long siege of parent-teenage conflict. Part of their differences were temperamental: Mother loved designer clothes, keeping a perfect house, loving the grand gesture; Daughter preferred walking on the beach in her khakis, a table for two, the intimate chat. But the times each grew up in also defined their different perspectives: the elder woman sacrificed her dream of a career in music to raise a family; the younger woman headed off to graduate school to write about the social ills her mother's generation had created - or failed to solve. Then one day, Daughter was passing through a crafts shop. She saw a creamer and sugar bowl she knew her mother would love. Call it a delayed epiphany. She bought them and sent them to her mother. She can still hear the joy in her mother's voice when she called to thank her. A week later, a package arrived from her mother: a beautiful table cloth, a simple cotton print in blue, her daughter's favorite color.

After this exchange of gifts, Mother and Daughter found a new ease. Mother offered her matchless color sense for sweaters Daughter was knitting for her toddler. Daughter consulted her mother for recipes. The two began attending plays and concerts together - their favorite: Beethoven. The daughter came to see that, despite all that divided them, her mother simply loved being with her. And they didn't need the best table in the house. After her mother died, she found a folder in which her mother kept every article her daughter had ever written. She had never mentioned it. But by now her daughter understood. It wasn't her achievements that her mother cherished, any more than the ornaments of her own ambitions. What mattered all along was very simple. They just had to stop wanting what they thought the other *should* want and be, and, instead, honoring and appreciating who the other *actually is* and wants her life to be.

Sometimes the hardest love to express is our love for those who matter most to us. A daughter re-imagines her relationship with her mother through a simple gift meant only to bring her joy - a generational divide is bridged by grace and gratitude for the gifts each woman is able to give to the other. The love that Jesus asks us to embrace - "commands" us to embrace - is centered in the happiness of the other, not what we think their happiness should be.

Such love is possible only when we put aside our own expectations, demands and interests in order to realize the joys and dreams of those we love. Jesus asks us to love one another as he has loved us: to put others before ourselves, to seek our joy in bringing joy to those we love and who love us, to honor and cherish one another simply because we are all sons and daughters of the God of mercy and compassion.

"She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is."

It was a busy morning, about 8:30, when an elderly gentleman in his 80's arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He said he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9:00 am. The medico took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him. Since he, himself, was not busy the medico took time to evaluate the man's wound. The wound was well healed, and so he talked to one of the doctors, got the needed supplies to remove his sutures and redress his wound. While taking care of his wound, the medico asked his patient if he had another doctor's appointment as he was in such a hurry. The gentleman said that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. In answer to the medico's question about her health, the old man responded that she had been there for a while and that she was a victim of Alzheimer's disease. When the medico asked if she would be upset if he was a bit late, he replied that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognized him in five years now. The medico was surprised, and asked him why, if his wife didn't know who he was, he went every morning faithfully for the breakfast. The old man smiled and said, "She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is." The medico with tears in the eyes said to himself, "That is the kind of love I want in my life."

True love is neither physical, nor romantic. True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be, and will not be. In today's Gospel Jesus commands us to practice this type of sacrificial and selfless agápe love as he practiced. In today's Gospel, Jesus explains precisely how the disciples are to remain bonded to him as branches are bound to a vine. They are to obey his commandment of love, just as he has obeyed his Heavenly Father's will by fulfilling His commandments and remaining inseparably bonded with his Father. Jesus' unconditional, forgiving, selfless, sacrificial love for us must be the criterion of our love for others. The highest expression of this love is our willingness to lay down our lives as Jesus did, for people who don't deserve it. The goal and result of our abiding in love, in God, will be perfect joy. Jesus calls us friends; he tells us that he has chosen us, and that, if we use his name, we can ask the Father for anything.

“Terminal Hospital in London!”

There is a special hospital in London for those whom other hospitals consider a lost cause. It is a hospital for those who are diagnosed as "terminal." Most people would consider such a hospital to be a very sad place, but it is not. Actually, it is a hospital filled with hope and a lot of life. The emphasis in this London hospital is on life and not on death. The truth is that several of the patients have seen remissions in the disease process instead of death. A great deal of the credit is given to the way the facility is run. The basic philosophy is different from most other hospitals. In this program the patients are expected to give themselves away in service to the other patients. Each patient is given another patient for whom to care. So, for example, a person who is unable to walk might be given the task of reading to another who is blind. The blind person would then push the wheelchair of the one who could not walk but who gives directions on where to push the chair. Is this not the new commandment to which Jesus referred? He calls us to be disciples who love one another. We are the ones who are healed and strengthened when we learn how to give and how to love.

The Greatest Commandment revolutionized a prison!

During the Second World War Dr. Ernest Gordon, later Chaplain of Princeton University, was a prisoner of war in Thailand. In his book, *Through the Valley of the Kwai*, he reflects on the difference between two Christmas seasons he spent in prison. He says that during the Christmas season of 1942 there were thousands of American soldiers in that prison who robbed the sick among them, mistreated one another, and did not care whether the other prisoners lived or died. During the following year, a healthy American soldier began giving his food to a sick buddy to help him get well. In time the sick prisoner recovered, but the buddy who had given him food died of malnutrition. The story of the man who sacrificed his life to save a buddy made the rounds of the camp. Some of the prisoners remarked that he was a lot like Christ. Some of the soldiers began to recall passages from the Bible they had learned years earlier under far different circumstances. One of the passages stated, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Some who were Christians took heart and began to witness to other men. The prisoners began to ask about Christ and to meet for Bible study. When they began to know Christ as Lord the entire

atmosphere in the camp changed from despair and desperation to hope and compassion. When Christmas of 1943 arrived, Dr. Gordon said, 2000 prisoners assembled for worship. They sang carols and someone read the story of the birth of Jesus from a Gospel account. Much more was different. In spite of their hunger, prisoners who were well shared food with the sick to help them gain strength faster. They cared for one another. They agreed that the difference came about because of faith in Christ and people who lived his love in the midst of unloving circumstances. The choices they made were for righteousness and not evil.

“Dad couldn’t remember which of us was adopted!”

One time a Sunday school superintendent was registering two new sisters in Sunday School. When she asked them how old they were one replied, "We're both seven. My birthday is April 8th and my sister's is April 20th." That superintendent replied, "That's impossible girls." The other sister then spoke up and said, "No it's true, one of us is adopted." "Oh," the superintendent said. "Which one?" The two sisters looked at each other, and one said, "We asked Dad that question a while ago, but he just looked at us and said that he loved us both equally, so much so that he couldn't remember which one of us was adopted." (from *God's Little Lessons on Life for Women, Honor Books*).

That is a wonderful analogy for the love of God. God loves us all, equally. We are loved, not because we have earned God's love or deserve it, but because of God's grace. In today's First Reading we see such an openness to all. One of the early Church's first struggles was to decide whether God was calling the early Christians to be a sect entirely within Judaism, or one that extended outward and welcomed others who believed in Jesus. The decision to yoke the Jews and the Gentiles together was a tough one for the Judeo-Christians and a welcome sign for the converts from pagan religions. In today's first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, we see the start of the process. The episode begins earlier in Acts, in Chapter 10, where Peter and the Roman centurion Cornelius (a good pagan), are given interlocking, visions. Acts describes how the heavenly messenger instructed Cornelius to send to Joppa for Peter. In a trance, Peter heard a Voice bidding him to eat non-kosher foods. Peter called this unthinkable, but the Voice insisted that what God had purified no one might call unclean. The worldwide Gentile mission was later to begin with this formerly-pagan centurion. The Holy Spirit, guiding the Church, would use Cornelius to assist Paul in transforming the early Church from an exclusively Jewish establishment to a dominantly Gentile and western European reality.

From the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

Our last meeting was held on April 16, 2024 beginning with the Lectio Divina Opening prayer, followed by the Shared Wisdom Reminder. The main points of discussion we wish to share with the parish are:

- The update on the **Suggestion Box** in Church: The box has been purchased and is in the process of being prepared for installation. We will communicate to the parish, through our bulletin, the details about giving feedback or suggestions for the good of the parish.
- Fr. Abraham updated the group on the Wifi / streaming update. Jeff Beck and Joe Mancusso are the ones directly involved in this project together with Fr. Abraham. The ultra short throw projector system is what will be installed in the near future.
- The topic of the Parish Security Team was discussed. The application for a Blood Control kit has been submitted. Training will be planned in the use of the kit and emergency response.
- There was a general appreciation of the different spiritual events that our parishioners attended: Cursillo retreat at the Blue Army Shrine, LIVE LENT! Sessions on the Eucharist in our parish during Lent, Life in the Spirit Seminar, etc.
- Everyone is asked to invite and encourage prospective new members to consider joining the Parish Council. Considering the 'crisis of youth' not coming to church, it was suggested to intentionally invite young adult parishioners to join the Council.

We concluded the meeting with a short prayer.

Pastoral Council Seeks New Members

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

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



The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for individuals living with Alzheimer's or Dementia, their care partners, and others dealing with the disease. **Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 8th, from 2:00 pm-3:00 pm on Zoom.** Registration is required in order to get the Zoom link.

To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group.

The Group provides a safe and supportive environment and offers dementia-related education, emotional support, and connections with resources so that the group members may enhance their lives in the midst of the journey. For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.



FAMILY MATTERS

JOIN US AS WE EMPOWER CATHOLIC PARENTS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION

Family Matters is a new initiative of the Center for FaithJustice in partnership with RENEW International. It is a process for nurturing discipleship among parents and caregivers as they enrich their own faith lives to more vibrantly pass on Catholic social tradition to their children.

St. Matthias will be piloting this program for families/children this year! Join us!



Parents and families will have access to:

- Online resources
- In-person gatherings at their parish
- Home based activities
- Mentorship from other Catholic parents in your parish
- Access to Spiritual Direction
- Retreats and Service opportunities with other families

Interested in joining? We will begin by hosting listening sessions for interested parents and families this spring!

Sign up for the listening session.

Email Dee Nann: dnann@stmatthias.net

With you on the journey!

Center for FaithJustice, RENEW International

Learn



CAMP INVENTION AT ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL!

June 17-21, 2024

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



Camp Invention®

Even better, our 2024 program is full of all-new, hands-on STEM fun! Don't miss out—register students going into grades Kindergarten - 6th grade at invent.org/mylocalcamp until camp starts. Register by **March 27th** using **FUN25** to **save \$25** or by **May 16th** using **FUN15** to **save \$15!** If you have multiple children use **SIBLOVE30** to **save \$30** for 2 siblings and **SIBLOVE40** to **save \$40** for 3 or more siblings!

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

Camp Week: June 17-21, 2024

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

QR code in top left corner.

\$20 EACH OR \$50 FOR 3

MEMORIAL DAY BUTCHER BOX RAFFLE

2 WHOLE CHICKENS (CUT UP) | 24 BURGER PATTIES |
SMOKED HIELBASA RING | HOT DOGS | 4 RIBEYES |
2 T-BONES | 4 PORK CHOPS

WINNER WILL BE DRAWN MONDAY, MAY 20TH

Joe's Meat Market logo with text: ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL

Illustrations of a grill, a pig, and a cow.

SMS PARTICIPATION IN MATH LEAGUE COMPETITION

Congratulations to all of our students in grades 3-8 who participated in the Catholic Math League competition throughout the school year. The Catholic Math League is a nation-wide competition where hundreds of schools participate. SMS is so very proud of all of you!

For the first time, since SMS started participating in the Math League, we had students place regionally and nationally. Bartholemieux D. (8th grade), Devon K., Martin R.F., & Harvey F. (5th graders) all placed regionally.

A huge congratulations to Devon K. (5th grade) who placed 1st overall in the Northeast Region competing against other Catholic schools from NJ, NY, PA, MD, RI, etc. Devon also placed 7th overall across the Nation.

St. Matthias School is beaming with pride for Devon, and all the students who placed, and our students who continue to give their all each day. Our teachers are truly the best here at SMS, preparing our students for their future.

<https://www.catholicmathleague.com/>

Serve

A DAY OF SERVICE

The next Morning of Service will be held on **Saturday, May 11th**. If you are interested in volunteering that morning, please email **John and Coleen Zdziarski** at jzdzziarski@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 (8:15 - 12:00 noon).
2. Pregnancy Aid Center - 59 Thompson Street in Raritan - sorting children's clothing. Limited to eight people (9:30 - 12:00 noon).



Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 41 - April 7, 2024	\$8,123.50	\$22,957.00	\$31,080.50	\$26,704.25
Week 42 - April 14, 2024	\$11,716.00	\$17,667.50	\$29,383.50	\$45,751.27
Week 43 - April 21, 2024	\$8,835.00	\$12,642.40	\$21,477.40	\$38,662.25
Week 44 - April 28, 2024	\$10,992.70	\$8,580.50	\$19,573.20	\$19,377.25
			Month-to-date Total	Apr Total Last Year
			\$101,514.60	\$130,495.02
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of April 30, 2023
			\$1,164,253.30	\$1,182,598.04

Stewardship Reflection May 5, 2024 6th Sunday of Easter

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” - John 15:12-13

Do you love Jesus? Do you consider Him your friend? Jesus says that if we love Him we would be willing to offer whatever we have to Him, not because we want praise and glory, but simply because we love Him. Does your giving seem mechanical out of obligation or do you share freely out of love?

Reflexiónese - 5 de mayo de 2024 6º Domingo de Pascua

“Este es mi mandamiento: Que os améis los unos a los otros, como yo os he amado. Nadie tiene un amor mayor que este, que dar su vida por uno de sus amigos.” -Juan 15:12-13

¿Ama a Jesús? ¿Lo considera su amigo? Jesús dice que si lo amamos seremos capaces de ofrecerle lo que tenemos, no porque queremos alabanzas y gloria, sino simplemente porque lo amamos. ¿Su donación parece mecánica y por obligación o comparte sus dones libremente por amor?



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

Most of our contributing parishioners have signed up with our online Parish Giving Program. That has been a big help to the parish in so many ways. If you are one of the few who have not, here’s why it is helpful to you and important for St. Matthias: Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan the budget. If you want to simplify your life, scan the QR code or go to our website www.stmatthias.net and click on the Parish Giving Link under ‘Give’. Parish Giving offers you complete control over your account to change your giving as needed. You have the benefit to generate a giving report and easily choose the specific collections you wish to support. We thank you for your support which enables St. Matthias to minister to the community.

Why more parishes switch to Online Giving?

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

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

Connecting to Our Local Community



THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

Tuesday, May 7

Peacemaker, author, and Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, Father John Dear, will be with us to talk about and sign copies of his new book, his life's work: *The Gospel of Peace: A Commentary on Matthew, Mark, and Luke from the Perspective of Nonviolence*. It is the first ever commentary on the Synoptic Gospels from, the perspective of active nonviolence in the tradition of Gandhi and Dr. King. In this original work, Fr. John walks us through every line of the three synoptic Gospels pointing out Jesus' practice and teachings on nonviolence, peace, and universal love and invites us to follow him. Limited in person availability.

Presenter: Fr. John Dear Tuesday, May 7 from 7-9 pm at the House of Prayer and on Zoom \$20-\$30 as you are able.

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

You can register and pay for any program at www.msmhope.org.



In God's Image

In God's Image, the Catholic Faith Sharing Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, meets the **2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM**. Our next meeting is **May 8 and will be both in person and online**. Please email for more information. The group is open to LGBTQ adults, 18 and over, and their families. All are welcome for faith sharing, prayer, conversation and support. For more information, contact Fr John at 732 790 3136 or the group may be reached via email at sacredheartigi@gmail.com.



Simply Prayer: Share the Light

10 AM on Tuesday, May 7, 2024

The Church dedicates the month of May to Our Lady Mother of Jesus the Light of the World. Let us remember her beautiful life and ask for her intercession, as we gather for **Simply Prayer: Share the Light** at **10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 7**. Sister Marguerite Stewart (inset) will lead the program in the first-floor conference room of St. Francis Center at Monocacy Manor in Bethlehem, Pa. For those who do not live nearby, online attendance also is available through Zoom.

Those attending in person are welcome to join us for coffee at 9:30 a.m. Freewill offerings are accepted.

If you would prefer to register by phone, contact Lauren Martin at **610-867-8890** or lmartin@schoolsistersosf.org.

Parish Leadership

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

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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