



St. Matthias Parish Office:

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
 School Office Hours, Mon-Fri 8AM to 3PM.

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdevkovitz**
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 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 7, 2023-
5th Sunday of Easter



TODAY
 is the collection
 for Development
 of the People



HELP SPREAD THE WORD!
SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024

Saint Matthias School
 registration is open.
 We are enrolling students
 in PreK 3, PreK 4,
 Kindergarten and
 grades 1-8. Please help us
 spread the word about our
 school filled with faith,
 caring, and excellence to
 your relatives, friends,
 and neighbors.
ALL are welcome!



2023 SMS Golf Classic

This annual event is
 scheduled for
May 15, 2023
 at
 Royce Brook Golf Club.
 For all details, see page 8.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
ST. MATTHIAS MINISTRY FAIR
MAY 20TH & 21ST

St. Matthias is blessed with a host of ministries doing
 so much good for our community and beyond.
 Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has initiated a "Ministry Fair" to
 let our parish community know more about our various
 wonderful ministries. It is our hope that many will be
 inspired to join one of the ministries.

For complete details, see page 8.

This Week @ St. Matthias From Our Pastor

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 7, 2023 Development of the People

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Society Mtg.	John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, May 8, 2023 St. Magdalene of Canosso, Foundress of Daughters of Charity

8:00AM	Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
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Tuesday, May 9, 2023 St. George Preca, Priest

8:00AM	Mass	Church
5:30PM	SMS: Celebration of the Arts	Church & School
7:00PM	St. Matthias Racial Justice Initiative	Zoom

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 St. Damien, Priest & Missionary

8:00AM	Mass—St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm
2:00PM	Alzheimer's Group Mtg.	Zoom
7:00PM	SMDP Mtg.	Zoom
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

Thursday, May 11, 2023 St. Ignatius of Laconi, Monk

8:00AM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	Last Children's Choir Gr. 3&4	Church
4:00PM	Last Children's Choir Gr. 5-8	Church
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

Friday, May 12, 2023 Sts. Nereus, Achilleus & Pancras, Martyrs

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	SMS: Daddy/Daughter Dance	Cafeteria

Saturday, May 13, 2023 Feast—Our Lady of Fatima

10:00AM	Senior Retreat	Off Site
12:00PM	1st Communion #2	Church
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

Sunday, May 14, 2023 Mother's Day Feast of St. Matthias 60th Anniversary Concludes

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

Bulletin Article Requests:

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

Dear Friends,

You must have noticed the sound of Hand bells (Sanctus bells) during the Mass. We began to use bells this year from the Easter Vigil Mass onwards. At our last Parish Pastoral Council, there was an overwhelming appreciation for introducing the bells. Many of you told me of your joy at hearing the bells, evoking childhood memories. One parishioner asked me about the significance of bells. Another wanted to know why some parishes use bells and some don't. I had been planning to explain these at the earliest chance which is happening in this column.



The ringing of bells during the consecration has a long history in the church, beginning about the 13th century. **In those days, churches were large, the priest faced the altar, and Mass was offered in Latin, a language most ordinary folks did not know.** Still they came faithfully to church to pray and so they would recite the rosary and novena prayers to different saints during the Mass. The church realized the need for directing the attention of the congregation to the altar at least during those important moments of the Mass. Thus bells were introduced to be rung primarily before the gospel proclamation, during the elevation of the Host, the elevation of the chalice and before receiving Holy Communion.

However, the Second Vatican Council decided to have the Mass offered in the vernacular, in the language of the people, so that all can understand the prayers. According to the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Church earnestly desires that all the faithful be led to that **full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations.** Such participation by the Christian people as “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people” (1 Pt 2:9; see 2:4-5), is their right and duty by reason of their baptism. **This made the bells redundant as everyone was called to participate attentively in the Holy Eucharist. Hence many churches discontinued the use of bells.** But people missed the bells, because we humans are slaves of habit.

Does that mean bells are prohibited by the church? No. Here’s what the General Instruction of the Roman Missal says: “A little before the consecration, if appropriate, a minister rings a small bell as a signal to the faithful. The minister also rings the small bell at each elevation by the priest, according to local custom” (No. 150). **Besides, it is biblical. The Old Testament mentions the use of bells on four occasions:** Exodus 28:33-35, 39: 25-26; Ecclesiasticus 45:9, and Zechariah 14:20; Psalm 98:4; Psalm 150: 5-6.

From my Indian background, it may interest us to know the meaning of bells in a Hindu temple. When a devotee enters the Hindu temple, he or she rings a bell. The devotee is saying to the god or goddess of that temple: “Lord, I am here, please give me your ear.”

We have to understand that as human beings, we are distracted during Mass, and so bells can help us concentrate, by bringing our attention to the most important moment of the Mass. Bells also add reverence and solemnity to the Eucharistic celebration. May the introduction of bells help us to be more attentive in the sacred Liturgy.

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: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-9, 10, 12; Jn 15:12-17

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

Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May 6	5:00PM	Deceased Members of the Kohler & Gatarz Families, by Claire
Sunday, May 7	8:00AM	William & Geraldine Washkevich, by James & Mary Woods
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Erlina Liem & Tita Rohayu Dipasuharjo, by The Sukendro Family
Monday, May 8	8:00AM	Susan & James Shinnors, by Mary
Tuesday, May 9	8:00AM	Salvatore & Eileen Catalano, by Acevedo Family
Wednesday, May 10	8:00AM	Nicholas Hughes & Health & Birthday Blessings for Anthony Fanelli, by The Family
Thursday, May 11	8:00AM	Mary Eads, by Her Children
Friday, May 12	8:00AM	Valdez Family (Parents of Jaime), by Alma Valdez
Saturday, May 13	5:00PM	Marie De Feo, by Daughter, Lisa
Sunday, May 14	8:00AM	Mary Eads, by The Family
	10:00AM	All Mothers Living & Deceased
	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 kcounts@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	Claudia Gemgnani	Kathlyn Moore	Sr. Bernadine Marie Stemnock
Arthur & Regina Berlowitz	Helen Geraghty	Eleanor Nagy	Jeff Sullivan
John Blum	Emma Gergely	Danny Ongchango	Tom Szabo
Bishop Paul Bootkowski	Marilyn Horvath	Paul & Doris Paetow	Nancy Whelan
Barbara Butler	Robert Kashinsky	Robert Pellegrino	Mark Worthington
Bianca Canlas	Kathleen Langenbacher	Jim Pettit	Carl Wyopen
Tara Capatosto	Henrietta Lesiak	Randolff Pinar	Angie Yetyet
Ellen Catalina	Mary Lou Litrakis	Valerie Polci	
Kyle Davidson	John Litrakis	Kim Price	
Lisa DeFeo	Joseph Lubrano	Doris Regan	
Ann Devlin	Jude Raymond Maceren	Gabriel Rivera	
Michael DiMaggio	Aries Magali	Jaxon Rivera	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
William Dolphin	Al Maglio	Arina Robinson	
Vivian Dong	Anne McElwee	Arthur Robinson	
Hattie Evans	Margaret Menendez	Maria Schwenzer	
Josephine Geenty	Carol Millemann	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



A stingy old lawyer who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness was determined to prove wrong the saying, "You can't take it with you." After much thought and consideration, the old ambulance-chaser finally figured out how to take at least some of his money with him when he died. He instructed his wife to go to the bank and withdraw enough paper currency to fill two pillowcases. He then directed her to take the bags of money to the attic and leave them directly above his bed. His plan was that when he passed away, he would reach out and grab the bags on his way to Heaven. Several weeks after the funeral, the deceased lawyer's wife, while cleaning the attic, came upon the two forgotten pillowcases stuffed with currency. "Oh, that darned old fool," she exclaimed. "I knew he should have had me put the money in the basement so that he could take it on his way down to Hell." 😊

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were

sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers." 😊

After my husband injured himself, I ran him over to the doctor's office. There, the nurse dressed his wound and gave him instructions on how to care for it. She then reassured him by adding, "Now, if you do everything I've told you, you won't be with us for long." 😊

"Anyone want to buy some exercise equipment? I'm having a going-out-of-fitness sale." 😊

"Mom, our Sunday school teacher said that God made our brains and they are like computers; when is God going to upgrade mine?" 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." (1 Peter 2:7) Do you or your child ever feel rejected? Sooner or later everyone has this experience. It doesn't feel good but it's not the end of the world. When appropriate, share with your child a time that you felt rejected and how you grew from it.



Marriage Tune-Up

Research indicates that the average person listens for 17 seconds before interrupting. (5 Love Languages by Gary Chapman) Sometimes one spouse may be more long winded than the other. Sometimes one hardly speaks at all. Pay attention to your words this next week. Try to meet in the middle.

Making a place . . .

"In my Father's house there are many dwelling places . . . And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be . . ."

"Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these . . ." John 14: 1-12

He walks into his new room. The biggest change is that it's **his** room — a room of his own. He carries all his clothes and a couple of toys and books in a broken suitcase and a paper bag. Since his parents all but abandoned him he's been shuttled from one shelter to another, from one foster family to the next. Now he's been placed with this couple. They are kind and understanding. They've been foster parents before and know what kids like him have been through. They have made a place for him, a place of welcome and care.

It's her first day at a new high school. Because of her dad's work, the family has moved often. But changing high schools in midyear is a new — and frightening — experience

for her. She asks a student for directions to her first class. After quick introductions, she tells the student that this is her first day. After giving her directions to her class, the student invites her to meet her for lunch in the cafeteria. There she introduces her around and she makes her first friends. Her new high school seems a little less intimidating now. The students have made a place for her.

They are lost and overwhelmed. A young mother and her daughter nervously inch their way into the church just as Mass is starting. A greeter sees them and goes to help them. They struggle with English, so he asks them to wait a moment. He walks up a side aisle and motions to a parishioner to come to the back. The parishioner smiles at the mom and her ten-year-old and begins to speak to them in their first language. Before long, the parishioner escorts them to the bench where she and her family are sitting. The people around the family smile and welcome them and make sure they come downstairs for the post-Mass coffee hour. A parish makes a place for newcomers at their table.

[Continued on next page](#)

Reflect

Making a Place... (continued)

In his Last Supper farewell to his disciples, Jesus assures them that he goes “to prepare a place for you” in “my Father’s house.” As Christians, we live in the eternal hope of one day living in God’s dwelling place — but that “place” of hope and compassion and peace exists here and now in the places we make where the poor and sick are cared for, where the fallen are lifted up, where the lost and rejected are sought out and guided home. In the place we make for our sisters and brothers, we begin to find the place Jesus has prepared for us; taking on with joy and resolve the work of compassion and reconciliation the Risen One entrusts to us, we build God’s house in this time and place of ours.

Surprises in Heaven

A few years ago, a minister of the United Methodist Church was forced out of his congregation and the ministry because he had the “audacity to preach heresy” during his Sunday sermon: “I’m in a church,” he said, “which acts as if God has a very small house, with only a few rooms and only one door. But thanks be to God, God’s house, according to Jesus, has many rooms, many places to dwell. If it were not so, he would have told us.” To add fuel to the fire, he explained his theory with a story. A good man died and was ushered into heaven, which appeared to be an enormous house. An angel began to escort him down a long hallway past “many rooms”. “What’s in that room?” the man asked, pointing to a very somber-looking group of people chanting a Gregorian Mass. “That’s the Roman Catholic room,” said the angel. “Very high church.” “What’s in that noisy room?” the man asked, pointing to a group of white-clothed people dancing, clapping and singing and occasionally shrieking out loud. “That’s the Pentecostal group,” said the angel. “Very lively.” “What’s in that room?” asked the man, pointing to a group of bald-headed people meditating to the sound of an enormous gong. “That’s the Zen group,” said the angel. “Very quiet. You would hardly know they were here.” Then the angel stopped the man, as they were about to round a corner. “Now, when we get to the next room,” said the angel, “I would appreciate it if you would tiptoe past. We mustn’t make any sound.” “Why’s that?” asked the man. “Because in that room there’s a group of very fundamentalist Christians; and they think they’re the only ones here.”

This story can be applied to Catholics too, because there was a time when the Catholics thought they would be the only ones in heaven! But in today’s Gospel, Jesus gives a true picture of his Father’s house as a place of inclusion and welcome to all who live by His values.

Today’s first reading (Acts 6:1-7)

The early Church developed social institutions and Church offices to keep Jesus’ memory alive. Today’s first reading tells us how the apostles and early Christians, as a Church community, prayerfully and amicably solved a community problem. It is the famous account of the selection of the first deacons in the church. The Greek-speaking widows complained that the Aramaic-speaking food-ministers were short-changing them at meals in favor of the Aramaic-speaking widows. The apostles solved the problem by convening a meeting of “the whole community of the disciples” and informing them that they should be the ones to work through their problem. Their task: “Select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to the task” of distributing the food (6:3).

Note the names of the chosen seven: “Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolaus of Antioch.” Everyone is a Greek! Luke tells us that the Church believed that if the Greeks in the community had a problem, then the Greeks in the community were important and gifted enough to solve their problem. The apostles ratified the choice of these community servants by praying over them and laying hands on them. The apostles’ choice to solemnize the choosing by the ancient ritual of the imposition of hands on those chosen suggests something very interesting about service in the church. The Apostles seem to be saying that the role of the community servant is worthy of what would become known as “ordination.” That is, service is so important in the life of the Church, that we cannot be the Church of Christ Jesus if we’re without mutual service. Service constitutes the Church, as do Word and Sacrament.



“Have faith in God; have faith also in me!”

Dr. Robert Schuller, that legendary advocate of “Possibility Thinking,” says that there are two words that have killed more God-inspired dreams and hopes than anything else he can think of. These two words are “Be realistic!” If we Christians, Dr. Schuller says, were “realistic” then nothing would be accomplished. But if we have real, dynamic faith in God and in Jesus His Son we can do anything. He cites the example of Tom Dempsey—a young man who was born with half a right foot and a deformed right arm but a ton of faith. Dempsey wanted to be a football player—in spite of his considerable handicaps. And he did play football. He became a kicker for his high school team. But that wasn’t enough. He wanted to play college ball. And again, he became the kicker on his college team. But when he graduated from college, his

“Have faith in God; have faith also in me!” (continued)

dream became even wilder and more fantastic. He wanted to be a professional football player! A professional football player with half a foot and a deformed right arm! Impossible! No coach would accept him. They all shook their heads - all except one. And it is ironic and more than coincidental that Dempsey became a kicker for the professional football team, The New Orleans SAINTS! The rest, as they say, is history. In 1972, Dempsey kicked the longest field goal ever—63 yards! All because he was not "realistic"! All because, Schuller tells us, Tom Dempsey had faith in Jesus Christ who gave him the strength to do what he dreamed.



“I see I Am not your first visitor!”

In his book *The Transforming Friendship*, Leslie Weatherhead passes on to us a lovely story of an old Scotsman who, when he was very ill, was visited by his minister. As the minister sat down on a chair by the bedside, he noticed on the other side of the bed another chair placed at such an angle as to suggest that a visitor had just left. "Well, Donald," said the minister, glancing at the chair, "I see I am not your first visitor." The old Scotsman looked up in surprise, so the minister pointed to the chair. "Ah," said the sick man, "I'll tell you about that chair. Years ago I found it impossible to pray. I often fell asleep on my knees, I was so tired. And if I kept awake, I could not control my thoughts from wandering. One day I was so worried I spoke to the minister about it. He told me not to worry about kneeling down. "Just sit down," he said, "and put a chair opposite you. Imagine that Jesus is in it, and talk to Him as you would to a friend." Then the Scotsman added, "And I have been doing that ever since." A week later the daughter of the old man drove up to the minister's house and knocked. She was shown into his study, and when the minister came, she said quietly, "Father died in the night. I had no idea the end was so near. I had just gone to lie down for an hour or two. He seemed to be sleeping so comfortably. When I discovered that he was gone, he hadn't moved since I last saw him, EXCEPT THAT HIS HAND WAS OUT ON THE EMPTY CHAIR AT THE SIDE OF HIS BED." Jesus said, "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you." And He, my friends, is a Man and God of His word! Thanks be to God!



“Do not let your hearts be troubled!”

During the Second World War, Prime Minister Winston Churchill gave some of the most stirring speeches of all times. After England had suffered a demoralizing defeat at Dunkirk, Churchill reminded the House of Commons about their commitment to ultimate victory.

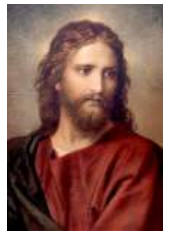


He said: “Victory at all costs, victory in spite of terror, victory however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival. We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas, we shall fight in the air. We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall never surrender.” With words like that, Churchill aroused the hearts of his people to remain undaunted, even though they were on the verge of destruction. He encouraged them not to lose faith, however fierce the fight became.

In today's Gospel Jesus gives one of his own stirring speeches. The scene is the Last Supper, his disciples are present, and the time is the eve of his darkest hour, the day of his death. And yet, in spite of knowing that the worst is about to occur, Jesus tells his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me.”

“You still do not know me!?”

We need to know **Jesus the Truth** and walk **Jesus the Way**: Jesus asked Philip: “Have I been with you all this time and you still do not know me?” He is asking us the same question: “Have I been with you all this time – in the Mass, in the Sacraments, in the Bible in the worshipping community – and you still do not know me?” If we really believe that Jesus is the Way and the Truth and the Life, then we will find fresh and creative ways to keep alive his memory. Jesus asks us to keep alive his memory by reading and praying the Scriptures, by gathering in Jesus' name and celebrating the Eucharist “in memory” of him, by handing on the great tradition of Christian faith and by living according to his wise teachings. Jesus says, “If you believe in me, you will do the work I do.” This is the work he's talking about: creating safe, secure, happy places for one another in which the really important work of life - transformation and big-family building - can happen. We can help one another “get a life” in the same way Jesus did - by recognizing the powerful effect we have on one another, for good or ill, and by consciously deciding to make even our smallest choices add up into safe, secure, happy spaces where every member of our big family can grow whole.



From the Pastoral Staff

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

These powerful words from today's Gospel of John remind us that when we journey along a well traveled road, we trust the road. With Jesus, we can trust the road and the Traveler who has gone before us. We can journey along Jesus' way with the greatest confidence. He goes before us to prepare the way and to lead us safely home.

We are already at the halfway point of our Easter journey, with Pentecost only a few weeks away. Can you believe it? In 2 weeks, on the Feast of the Ascension- , May 20/21- St. Matthias will host our Parish Ministry Fair in the cafeteria after all of our Masses.

We have so much to be proud of at St. Matthias. There are many ministries that our parishioners have started to respond to the needs of our faith community and the larger community of Franklin Township.

S-, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE - don't go right to your car that day after Mass Dunkin Donuts will wait for you, I promise!

Make sure you take a few minutes to come downstairs and check out all the amazing ways our parishioners are living out their faith. You might even discover a new way, a

new, truth a new life through a new ministry that you have not been aware of before. . . Or, at the very least, you will have an opportunity to thank our hard working parishioners for making our parish come alive, every single week, in faith, hope and love.

And, best of all, at the Music Ministry table that day, you will have a chance to cast your ballot for your favorite hymn or song that we sing regularly at St. Matthias.

What will it be?

Taste and See? 10,000 Reasons? Holy God We Praise Thy Name?

Horse and Chariot are Cast Into the Sea? Silent Night?

And the Grammy goes to.....drumroll, please!

Joan Best Seamon,
Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music, St. Matthias Church



Pray

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL COMMITTEE:

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



Spring Bake-Less Bake Sale

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

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

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



Parish News/Updates



Part-Time General Maintenance Person

St. Matthias is looking for a **part-time general maintenance person**.

This employee will be responsible for maintaining the safety and cleanliness of the church/school.

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

Learn



2023 SMS Golf Classic





May 15th
Royce Brook Golf Club
West Course
Hillsborough, NJ

Sign Up Today!



Golf registration and sponsorship opportunities are available online. Please scan the QR code for details.



From the 60th Anniversary Fundraising Committee

Dear Fellow Parishioners and Friends.

The 60th Anniversary Fundraising team and Father Abraham would like to express our sincere gratitude to all who

have already donated to this special fundraiser to repair, renovate, and restore our church.

Some of the proposed projects are completed and planning for the rest is ongoing. A 'progress thermometer' is in the church vestibule. The funds raised to date will be noted on the progress thermometer each month.


If you have not already donated, donation envelopes and a fundraiser information letter are in the church vestibule. With your support, we are confident that we will raise the funds needed to complete these projects.

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



Connect


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS
METUCHEN, NJ CHAPTER



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

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

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





Grow in Eucharistic understanding.
Reconnect Sunday worship with daily life.
Pray, discuss, reflect during the
National Eucharistic Revival.

Rev. Ricky Manalo, CSP, Ph.D. is a Pastoral priest, theologian, and liturgical composer.
This seminar is based on his award-winning book, *The Liturgy of Life*.

Special Bonus: Fr. Ricky will sing some of his Eucharistic Compositions

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

ST. MATTHIAS MINISTRY FAIR

St. Matthias is blessed with a host of ministries doing so much good for our community and beyond. Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has initiated a "Ministry Fair" to let our parish community know more about our various wonderful ministries. It is our hope that many will be inspired to join one of the ministries. **Here are the details:**

The date/venue: the weekend of May 20 & 21, in the cafeteria
Format: Each ministry will have a table in the cafeteria to put up displays. You can prepare your own charts, giveaways like flyers about the ministry, objects or other attractions.

Invitation: Parishioners will be invited to come after each Mass to the cafeteria.

Manning the Table: each ministry will have to make sure that one or more of your ministry team will be present at the table after each of the Masses, to speak about your ministry to our parishioners who come.

Food: Coffee, drinks and snacks will be provided.

Printing: Each Ministry can prepare flyers and get them printed here in the office. Kindly contact Fr. Abraham for any help with that – at least by May 8th.

Contact person (PPC): Rose Peng - rosepeng@optonline.net, (Phone: 908-285-5921) will be the contact person to coordinate this. Kindly email her for any questions you have on this matter. If any Ministry is left out due to incorrect emails, change of leaders, etc, please inform Rose Peng or Fr. Abraham.

Connect



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

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

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

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

General Admission is \$75.00

Student Admission is \$25.00.

To register visit: www.diometuchen.org/familylife

If you have any questions, please contact:

cdaverso@diometuchen.org or amarshall@diometuchen.org

New Jersey CATHOLIC Youth RALLY at Six Flags
MAY 21 2023
9:AM-8PM
Open to all Youth and Young Adult ministries including Scouts, Altar Servers, Youth Choirs, Home School families, Athletic Programs, Rel. Ed. Youth Groups and Parish families!

Register before May 12, 2023

Please visit our website to register:
<https://www.diometuchen.org/youth-rally>
Tickets are \$65.00 per person,

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 40 - Apr 2, 2023	\$10,650.50	\$10,353.71	\$21,004.21	\$26,704.25
Week 41 - Apr. 9, 2023	\$28,623.00	\$27,486.06	\$56,109.06	\$45,751.27
Week 42 - Apr. 16, 2023	\$8,721.00	\$13,838.25	\$22,559.25	\$38,662.25
Week 43 - Apr. 23, 2023	\$7,958.00	\$12,961.61	\$20,919.61	\$19,377.25
Week 44 - Apr. 30, 2023 *	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,650.30
			Month-to-date Total	Apr Total Last Yr
* The financials for April 30th will be updated in next weeks bulletin.			\$120,592.13	\$151,145.32
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Apr 30,
			\$1,181,300.92	\$1,159,682.39

Stewardship Reflection May 7, 2023 5th Sunday of Easter

"The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." (1 Peter 2:7)

Every person has been given gifts from the Holy Spirit. These are called "charisms" and they are used to build God's kingdom on earth. While many people are able to recognize their natural talents and abilities, they may be unsure of their charisms. If you know someone who is struggling for a direction in life, give them a little encouragement. Help them discern their charisms and how God is calling them to use them. Remember - no gift is too small or insignificant in God's salvation plan.

Reflexiónese 7 de mayo de 2023 5° domingo de Pascua

"La piedra que los constructores rechazaron se ha convertido en la piedra angular". (1 PEDRO 2:7)

Cada persona ha recibido dones del Espíritu Santo. Estos se llaman "carismas" y se utilizan para construir el reino de Dios en la tierra. Si bien muchas personas pueden reconocer sus talentos y habilidades naturales, pueden no estar seguros de sus carismas. Si conoces a alguien que está luchando por una dirección en la vida, dale un poco de aliento. Ayúdalos a discernir sus carismas y cómo Dios los está llamando a usarlos. Recuerde: ningún regalo es demasiado pequeño o insignificante en el plan de salvación de Dios.

Serve



Alzheimer's Group Meeting

The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for people living with Alzheimer's and Dementia and their care partners.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 10th, from 2 pm-3 pm on Zoom. Registration is required. To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group.

Connect



ST. MATTHIAS 60th ANNIVERSARY COMES TO A CLOSE

We began the 60th Anniversary of our Church last year on the feast of St. Matthias. Thanks to the hard work of the 60th Anniversary Committee - we witnessed various celebrations during the year. We will close the Anniversary officially on the feast of St. Matthias on May 14.



Senior Day at St. Francis Center for Renewal Next Saturday, May 13th, 10AM-3PM

Celebrating the Gift of Years, preceded by an opening prayer service and followed by lunch, discussion and sharing with other seniors, and a relaxing walk around our grounds. Share time with our Sisters as we pray together, share together and honor and celebrate our "gift of years."

All-Day Attendance (including lunch) — \$40 per person **Bring a Friend** (including lunch) — \$75 per pair
Online Via Zoom (Sister Marguerite's talk only) — \$20 per person

395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem PA 18017

www.StFrancisCtr.org, 610-867-8890



In God's Image Support Group

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 10 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 908 756 0633, ext. 125 or the group may be reached via email at sacredheartigi@gmail.com.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net
John Taylor, jptaylor1068@yahoo.com

Co-Secretaries:

Frank Rees
Marilyn Wegg
Stephan Busono
Anne Marie Francis
Bill Isele
Maria Tapia-Burch

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

Trustees:

Pearl Scott
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair
Finance Council
@stmatthias.net
Carmen Driz-Melilli
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orłowski

Audrey Francis
Joe Porter
Joan Pritchard
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

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

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

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

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



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



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Tuesday, 10/18	Tuesday, 11/15
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