



**ST. MATTHIAS  
CHURCH**

*All are Welcome*

**St. Matthias Parish Office:**

Open Mon-Thu: 8:30-5:30PM; Fri: 8:30-5PM  
168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873  
732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866  
[www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net)

**Mass Schedule (in person):**

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

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

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

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info) 732-828-1402

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

**Pastor:** Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)  
**Senior Priest:** Msgr. Seamus Brennan, [sbrennan](mailto:sbrennan@stmatthias.net)  
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator  
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Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdemkovitz](mailto:rdemkovitz@stmatthias.net)  
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Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)

Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for Music Ministry* [jseamon](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net)

Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral Assoc. for Social Concerns*, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)

Phyllis Stone, *Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/RCIA & Admin. Assistant to the Pastor*, [pstone](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net)

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**St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)**

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**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**  
**SUNDAY, NOV 7, 2021 –**  
**Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**St Martin de Porres Feast Day**

**This Saturday, Nov. 6**, please join the celebration of the Feast Day of St. Martin de Porres at our 5:00PM Mass.

**TODAY, Sunday, Nov. 7**, stop by our table in the breezeway and speak with a St. Martin de Porres Racial Justice Initiative core group member to learn about our goals and some of our more recent and upcoming activities, and to let us know if you want to join our core group.

This weekend and next weekend (**Nov. 6/7 and 13/14**), the St. Martin de Porres Society is collecting items for Great Expectations and Ronald McDonald House after all Masses: Items needed:

Great Expectations: Baby Items - newborn and size 6 diapers, infant clothing sized 0-3 and 3-6 months, rattles, teething, baby bottles. Gift cards - Target and Walmart (any amount).

Ronald McDonald House: Laundry detergent, cascade dishwasher liquid, shower curtain liners, dish towels, over pot holders.

Please bring your items to the Church Reconciliation Room after all Masses. We will deliver the items to the organizations. Thank you!



**St. Matthias' Vocation Ministry**  
**Morning of Reflection**

**Next Saturday, November 13, 8:30 am**

Join us next Saturday. All are welcome! Register today! See page 7 for details.



**Super 50-50 Update**

Only **eleven more days** to purchase your Super 50-50 tickets! The total is now **\$15,015** and you could win half! Details on page 9.



**Volunteers Needed!**

We need lots of volunteers to help us set up our Christmas Trees! Sign up today!

See page 10 for details.



If you shop on Amazon, please help us by starting at: [www.stmatthias.net/Amazon](http://www.stmatthias.net/Amazon)

# This Week at St. Matthias From the Pastor's Desk

Masses are celebrated in-person and also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

## The Church is open for individual prayer

Mon-Fri from 7:30 am to 7pm,  
Sat from 9 am to 7pm, and  
Sun from 7:30 am to 1 pm,  
unless another service is taking place.

## Sunday Nov 7, 2021

### Eastern Standard Time has begun

All Masses St. Martin dePorres Donations Cry room  
8:00AM Mass Church  
10:00AM Mass Church  
12:00PM Mass Church  
2:00PM GIFT Church, classrms, John XXIII Rm

## Monday, Nov 8, 2021,

8:00AM Mass Church  
8:30AM Miraculous Medal Novena Church  
7:00PM Diversity Council Mtg. dePorres Rm

## Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
6:30PM GIFT Church, Classrms, John XXIII Rm  
7:00PM SMDP Racial Justice Initiative Core Grp Mtg. Zoom  
7:30PM SVDP Mtg. Cafeteria

## Wednesday, Nov 10, 2021, St. Leo the Great, Pope

8:00AM Mass Church  
9:30AM Prayer Group-Holy Spirit de Porres Rm  
6:30PM GIFT Church, Classrms, John XXIII Rm  
7:00PM Bereavement Support Grp. Zoom  
7:00PM SMDP Society Mtg. Zoom

## Thursday, Nov 11, 2021, St. Martin of Tours, Bishop Veteran's Day

8:00AM Mass Church  
3:30PM Children's Choir gr. 3 & 4 rehearsal Church  
4:15PM Children's Choir 5th-8th gr. rehearsal Church  
7:30PM Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal Church  
8:00PM K of C Mtg. Cafeteria

## Friday, Nov 12, 2021, St. Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

## Saturday, Nov 13, 2021, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin

All Masses St. Martin dePorres Donations Cry room  
8:30AM SMS: vocations Mini Retreat John XXIII Rm  
10:00AM Caregivers Support Grp. Zoom  
3:30PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Church  
5:00PM Mass Feast of St. Martin de Porres Church

## Sunday Nov 14, 2021

All Masses St. Martin dePorres Donations Cry room  
8:00AM Mass Church  
10:00AM Mass Church  
10:00AM 1st Reconciliation Prep Church, clsrms & John XXIII  
10:30AM RCIA Parish Office  
12:00PM Mass Church  
2:00PM GIFT Church, classrms, John XXIII Rm

Dear Friends,

This is National Vocation Awareness Week, celebrated November 7-13, 2021. This is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.



Yes we all know that we need to pray for more priests, more deacons and more consecrated women and men. But the concept of vocation is much more inclusive. Every baptized disciple of the Lord has a calling from God. You are aware that we have begun a 'Parish Vocations Ministry' this year with the intention of making our parishioners realize that the primary vocation given to all of us is to be holy. This call to holiness is lived out in various ways: marriage, family, consecrated state, single state, diaconate and priesthood. The zealous and enthusiastic members of our Vocation Ministry have done a lot of hard work to bring this idea into the minds of our people.

But old habits die hard and it takes a while to change a mindset. So it is not a surprise that the word 'vocation' can still bring to our minds only images of priests, nuns and deacons. The truth is whether we are called to marriage or to the priesthood or to the consecrated life, we cannot understand it other than as a way to live out the universal vocation to holiness, that is, to grow in intimacy with Jesus. That is why our Vocations Ministry is organizing a half day retreat next Saturday (November 13) to reflect on everyone's vocation to holiness. I am very grateful and edified to see the detailed planning the team has done under the leadership of Joe Percoco and MaryBeth Vetter Purcell. Have you signed up for it? If so, you will enjoy it and benefit from it. If not, here are some reasons why you may want to sign up:

- The organizing team has planned a creative and meaningful way of spending this day to the satisfaction of all;
- They have identified excellent resource persons from among our own community who will share their understanding of how God is active in their lives as they respond to the call of God.
- The day begins with continental breakfast at 8:30 and ends with lunch at Noon.
- The spiritual enrichment you get at the end of the day will far exceed your expectations.

Every vocation is accompanied by a desire for self-gift in response to an encounter with God's love. Does my entering into seminary or the convent look like taking a step deeper into a relationship with Jesus? Can I see my preparation for marriage to my fiancée through the lens of preparing to lay down my life as Christ has laid down his life for me? Does my present state of married or single life manifest the self-less giving of Jesus? Or is there anything that we are holding back, some small coin that we have not yet put into the treasury as today's gospel about the poor widow's mite (Mark 12:42) reminds us? No matter what, the Vocations Retreat has something for everyone.

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Wis 1:1-7; Ps 139:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-10; Lk 17:1-6

**Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22

**Wednesday:** Wis 6:1-11; Ps 82:3-4, 6-7; Lk 17:11-19

**Thursday:** Wis 7:22b — 8:1; Ps 119:89, 90, 91, 130, 135, 175; Lk 17:20-25

**Friday:** Wis 13:1-9; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5ab; Lk 17:26-37

**Saturday:** Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Ps 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43; Lk 18:1-8

**Sunday:** Dn 12:1-3; Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11; Heb 10:11-14, 18; Mk 13:24-32

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Nov 6</b>	5:00PM	Jack Meagher, by son, Tom Meagher
<b>Sunday, Nov 7</b>	8:00AM	Darrie Christmas, by Anne Marie Francis
	10:00AM	Charles Connelly, by The Family
	12:00PM	Hildegard Scheurle, by Gil & Ellin Ossandon
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Monday, Nov 8</b>	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Amelita Villon, by Flora Sunga
<b>Tuesday, Nov 9</b>	8:00AM	Angela Frigiola, by The Caasi Family
<b>Wednesday, Nov 10</b>	8:00AM	Louise Pickett, by The Misuraca Family
<b>Thursday, Nov 11</b>	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Richie Mayfield, by Jim Stone
<b>Friday, Nov 12</b>	8:00AM	Larry Trischetta, by The Misuraca Family
<b>Saturday, Nov 13</b>	5:00PM	Anna Moran, by Joe, Virginia & Eileen
<b>Sunday, Nov 14</b>	8:00AM	Dorothy Gonzalez, by Anne Marie Francis
	10:00AM	Julia Nowakowski, by Daughter
	12:00PM	Robert Morgenberger, by The Bodnar Family
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

## Pray for Those Getting Married...

Gina Carter & Nick Recine

Friday November 19, 2021

## 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](mailto: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

Maria Barreiro

Virginia Briggs

Marie Brody

Thomas Burns

Tara Capatosto

Ellen Catalina

Sean Clancy

Barbara Coan

Tom Current

Joseph DeFrancesco

Cenon DeGuzman

Mary Ellen Delaney

Alaina Derecola

Surya & Juliany Dharma

Jim Dolan

Mary Dolan

William Dolphin

John Farkas

Claudia Gemgnani

Emma Gergely

Rose Gessner

Mary Gidaro

Jill Gordon-Szabo

Sloopy Hoffman

Baby Isla-Rose Huffman

Kathleen Lagenbacher

Al & Rose Larangeira

The Litrakis Family

Al Maglio

Sue Maglio-Alese

Beatrice May

Margaret Menendez

Gail Miranda

[Sabrina Moloney](#)

Dave Moynihan

Baby Ezran Natural

Patricia Nese

Danny Ochangco

Jim Pettit

Christina Pietrowiak

Oscar Poisler

Baby Griffin Rademaker

Kevin Reavey

Chris Retz

Ann Ritchick

[Jaxon Rivera](#)

Angela Romanek

Rudy Schaar

Maria Schwenzer

Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF

Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF

Catherine Sloomaker

Encarnacion (Gina) So

Alessandro Spagnolo

Dennis Stuewe

Jeff Tami

Maureen Tropea

Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth

Eulalia Villanueva

Judi Wojna

Mark T. Worthington

Everyone who is ill with Covid-19

...and for all who are homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Jean McCann

Anthony Stankovich

Visitacion (Vee) Stanford

Manuel Lomuntad, father of Kim(man) Lomuntad

## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



A colleague once told how "a certain woman phoned her personal banker to arrange for the disposal of a \$1,000 bond. The voice on the phone asked for clarification, "Is the bond for conversion or redemption?" The confused woman paused and then inquired, "Am I talking to the bank or the church?" 😊

Officiating at a wedding, the priest asked: "John, do you take Mary to be your wife in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health? Will you love her and honor her all the days of your life?" "No" exclaimed John, and the church fell

so silent that you could hear a pin drop. Hoping he had misheard, the priest said, "Excuse me?" And John said, "No, Mary is my mother-in-law. My fiancée's name is Marge!" 😊

I get plenty of exercise – jumping to conclusions, pushing my luck, and dodging deadlines. 😊

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station... 😊

I don't mind coming to work, it's the 8-hour wait to go home I can't stand. 😊



### Marriage Tune-Up

Think of creative acts of love to surprise each other. For example: Wives, try giving him an unsolicited back rub and let nature take its course. Husbands, perhaps slip a little love note into her wallet. Or, think up your own ideas to surprise each other.



### Parenting Tune-Up

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. Does your family know anyone who is adopted? Be a friend to them. Especially hold in your heart children in foster care who might be awaiting adoption.

## DV8 Kitchen, "Life Changing Food!"

***"Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes and accept greetings in the marketplaces, seats of honor in synagogues, and places of honor at banquets . . .***

***"This poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty . . ." Mark 12: 38-44***

If you're ever in Lexington, Kentucky, stop by DV8 Kitchen. The food is great, especially the cinnamon rolls. But there's more to the place than the menu. Owners Rob and Diane Perez opened the restaurant with a specific mission as well as cuisine in mind. Five years ago, at another pub they owned, they found a spoon and ramekin in the trash and realized that their top server was doing heroin in the bathroom. They had already lost their first manager to drugs; she died in jail. A year ago they got a call that a cook would not be coming into work because he had overdosed on opioids; he later died, as well.

The Perezes put the pieces together:

they had lost 13 employees in 10 years to addiction – and half the cases were related to opioid drugs. That led the couple to open DV8 Kitchen. The restaurant not only hires people in treatment for addiction to opioids and other substances, but also created its business model around recovery, using the restaurant setting as a tool for rehabilitation. The restaurant culture has long been steeped in alcohol and drugs: many places offer free shift drinks, and servers earn tips in cash, the common medium for drug transactions. Rob Perez knows that all too well — he began working in the business when he was 19 and struggled with alcohol addiction for a decade; he's been sober since 1990. But Rob and Diane also see a restaurant's unusual potential for helping the addicted recover. Cooking, in particular, is "100 percent therapy," Rob believes.

DV8 Kitchen is one of four restaurants the Perezes own. They pay 20 percent more per hour than many local-fast food chains. In turn, employees are held to exacting standards. There is no bar. Management maintains a zero-



tolerance policy for tardiness. Tips are pooled, then added directly to paychecks, so no cash is exchanged. The couple also hires from and works directly with treatment centers, adding an additional level of accountability for employees. The restaurant is limited to breakfast and lunch, so employees can attend support meetings at night. After a slow start, DV8 has found its niche in the Lexington restaurant scene — and in the rehab community. One employee, Dan, has been addicted to pain medications since he was 14; he's now 30. He struggled for years to hold down a full-time job. DV8 has made him care again. "In the darkest part of my addiction, I isolated myself. Here, if you withdraw, the guests will notice you aren't bringing their food or asking how they're doing. Your co-workers will notice if you don't have a smile on your face . . . here [I] don't have to hide [my] past — everything is out in the

## DV8 Kitchen, “Life Changing Food!”(con’t.)

open.”

What makes the restaurant work is that everyone wants to turn their lives around and everyone — cooks, servers, dish washers, bussers, owners — hold each other accountable.

“We are not certified experts on this, nor do we claim to be,” the Perezes point out. “We are just providing the piece of the puzzle that is giving people a job right away when they are getting clean.” The inscription on the back of the DV8 Kitchen’s staff shirts says it all: “Life changing food.”

**DV8 Kitchen’s success is rooted in the humility that Jesus speaks of in today’s Gospel. Employees are forced to put aside their “robes” of isolation, their arrogance that deceives them into denying their problem, their pride that deludes them into thinking that they can beat their addiction on their own. They find “honor” in admitting their problem to themselves and to one another and calling each other accountable for their recovery. The kingdom of God is realized only in our embracing this idea of servanthood**

**that is central to Jesus’ Gospel: servanthood centered in respect for every one as sons and daughters of God; servanthood that finds fulfillment and satisfaction in the love, compassion and kindness we can extend to others; servanthood that enables us to place the common good and the struggles of others above our own wants and narrow interests. The faithful disciple honors the dignity of the servant above the power of the elite; to follow Jesus is to realize our need for one another and their need for us.**

## Poorest State is the Most Charitable!

An interesting study appeared on p. 17 in the January 13, 2003, issue of *Time* magazine. It was a study ranking each of the 50 states’ personal income levels as compared to their rate of charitable giving. The results were surprising. Massachusetts, with the fourth highest personal income in the country ranked last in charitable contributions. The citizens of New Hampshire ranked 6th overall in average personal income, but ranked 45th in the percentage of their income given to charitable causes.



On the other end of the spectrum, the citizens of Mississippi ranked 49th in average personal income, the second poorest state in the nation. Yet, Mississippians ranked 6th in the nation in their percentage of charitable giving. It also ranked first in actual dollars contributed. Mississippi, forty-ninth in income, Mississippians gave, on average, about forty percent more to charity than did their Yankee cousins! The more you have, the less you give. What that reflects is your values. Converted to percentage of income contributed to charity, the disparity was even greater. Another fact emerged: Wealthy people tend to give more to secular charities than to religious institutions. Poorer families give mostly to religious institutions and their social ministries. What’s going on? Are lower income families more generous or more religious? Do rich people see more direct benefit to their well-being from museums, colleges, or concerts than from worship, outreach, and fellowship at their churches?

## A Senior Citizen’s Mite!



Evie Rosen, 69, of Wausau, Wisconsin, is no doubt busy right now, knitting afghans. The reason: Winter is almost upon us, and someone is going to need a blanket. Evie is a retired needlework shop owner. Disheartened by news stories about the homeless, Rosen wanted to do something to help. “Almost every home has little balls of yarn. I thought if we could all knit 7-inch by 9-inch rectangles, we could stitch them together and make a lot of afghans.” She started Operation Warm Up America in 1992, getting the word out to churches, retirement homes and craft shops. Last year, with help from other organizations, the group distributed 16,000 afghans! Evie Rosen’s mite has might, and it’s the might of love!

***We need to accept Christ’s criteria of judging people: We often judge people by what they possess. We give weight to their position in society, to their educational qualifications, or to their celebrity status. But Jesus measures us in a totally different way on the basis of our inner motives and intentions hidden behind our actions. He evaluates us on the basis of the sacrifices we make for others and on the degree of our surrender to God’s holy will. The offering God wants from us is not our material possessions, but our hearts and lives. What is hardest to give is ourselves in love and concern, because that gift costs us more than reaching for our purses.***

### Letter from a Parishioner:

Dear Fellow Parishioners,  
I had the pleasure of attending the special Mass on Sunday, October 24th that was celebrated with Fr. Roland Njoyir Bergeh from Cameroon. It was a joyous event and gave me a feeling of unity with the worldwide church. We are truly blessed to be part of such a diverse community and I am grateful to Fr. Abraham for enabling us to have these opportunities. I would strongly encourage ALL parishioners to try your best to attend these events and share in the rich cultures that make up our unified body of Christ! In Christian love, Kerry Millan.

## Teenagers' Mite!



Norm and Lori Nickel of Abottsford, British Columbia, wanted to

offer their services as a family to help others. So, with four of their children, they took three weeks off in the summer to work with SOAR (Sold Out and Radical, Youth Mission International's teen program). They were placed in Reedley, California, where they worked with an organization called Community Youth Ministries that had been able to get into a Hispanic apartment complex housing 2,000 mostly illegal immigrants, 1,500 of whom were kids. They did Vacation Bible School, sports camps, drama and various other activities with the children. Lori says: "I could feel God working through our hands as we played with the children, our mouths as we verbally shared his love, and our eyes and ears as we saw and heard their hurts and pains. Just to think that God had set our family apart for three weeks so that he could convey his love and compassion to hurting people was life-changing for me." Norm and Lori Nickel's mite has might, and it is the might of love!

## The Paradox of our Times!

The paradox of our times is that we spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less. We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; more medicine, but less wellness. We read too little, watch TV too much and pray too seldom. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. These are the times of tall men, and short character; steep profits, and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes, but more divorce; of fancier houses, but more broken homes. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years; we've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul.

## A Stewardship Prayer for our Parish

*Generous and loving God, We give thanks to you for the gifts you have given us, our lives, families, friends, time, talent, and material possessions. All that we have comes from you. Help us to remember this and walk in your goodness. Help us on our spiritual journey, so that we may constantly renew our relationship with you in our believing, belonging and becoming the People of God in this Community of St. Matthias. Give us the strength and courage to become better followers and disciples of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen*

## The Operation Smile Mite

Consider William Magee, 52, and Kathleen Magee, 51, founders of Operation Smile. One is a plastic surgeon and the other a social service worker. Op Smile began in 1982. Since then, it has per-



formed surgery on 18,000 kids in 15 countries to correct -- without charge -- such disfigurements as cleft palates and burn

scars, while training local doctors in the procedures. Says William: "The world is changed by emotion." On June 20, 1996, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation awarded the group a \$1 million prize to continue the work. William and Kathleen Magee's mite has might, and it's the might of love.

***We need to pour out our "whole life." Can we, like the poor widow, find the courage to share the wealth and talents we hold? Can we stop dribbling out our stores of love and selflessness and sacrifice and compassion and dare to pour out our whole heart, our whole being, our "whole life" into the love-starved coffers of this world?***

## A Pearl of Wisdom for this Week:

***So why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small?***

***Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on. Look at life through the windshield, not through the rear view mirror.***

## When Giving Becomes A Sacrifice!

Mother Teresa of Calcutta has said, "If you give what you don't need, it isn't giving."



She told a story of how one day she was walking down the street when a beggar came up to her and said, "Mother Teresa everybody is giving to you, I also want to give to you. Today for the whole day I got only fifteen rupees (thirty cents). I want to give it to you." Mother Teresa thought for a moment: "If I take the thirty cents, he will have nothing to eat tonight, and if I don't take it I will hurt his feelings. So I put out my hands and took the money. I have never seen such joy on anybody's face as I saw on the face of that beggar at the thought that he too could give to Mother Teresa." She said that gift meant more to her than winning the Nobel Prize. Mother Teresa went on: "It was a big sacrifice for that poor man, who had sat in the sun the whole day long and received only thirty cents. Thirty cents is such a small amount and I can get nothing with it, but as he gave it up and I took it, it became like thousands because it was given with so much love. God looks not at the greatness of the work, but at the love with which it is performed."

## From the Pastoral Staff

### What do you remember about last Christmas 2020?

It was such a strange holiday for all of us at St. Matthias. Masses were “in-person” but many of our parishioners were still worshipping with us online. Our choirs were not singing but we prepared a virtual Christmas prelude that was played before all of our Masses. And I had a mild heart attack on December 21, so I was not present for any in-person celebrations — the first Christmas at St. Matthias I missed in about 42 years.

But there were many happy moments, too. Remember our beautiful Field of Trees? As our Children’s Choirs sang “Silent Night”, the trees were lit for the first time — it was enchanting!

So, I for one am really looking forward to celebrating Christmas 2021 at St. Matthias. I am sure you will agree with me that, more than ever, “We need a

little Christmas, right this very minute.”

This year, as our musicians are planning for this holy season of the Incarnation, we want to give **you musicians** who have not sung in a choir for many months or many years a chance to give the great **Gift of Your Voice** to your parish, St. Matthias, this Christmas.

And in giving the **Gift of Your Voice**, you will receive the Gift that only making music with dedicated passionate musicians like St. Matthias Music Ministry can bring.

If you would like to join one of our choirs, **just for Christmas**, we welcome you to come to our rehearsals in the month of December.

### What Mass would you like to sing at?

Our 4:00, 6:30 or Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve?

Our 10:00 or 12:00 Mass on Christmas Day?

We will be keeping our choral Christmas music simple, beautiful and inspiring (we hope.) If you have a good voice and a good ear, you will have no problem singing with us. Even better if you read music, but that’s not a requirement.

**Your presence would be such a great present** to our faith community. We want to raise the roof this year in jubilant song at our Christmas Masses and you, **YES YOU**, can help.

Call me- 732-828-1400; text me 732-406-914; e-mail me:

[jseamon@stmmassthias.net](mailto:jseamon@stmmassthias.net)

We can make this happen for you this year, but YOU have to take the first step. On your mark, get set, Merry Christmas! .....

Joan Best Seamon  
Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music



## Pray



### Don't Miss the Morning of Reflection Next Saturday!

The Saint Matthias Vocations Ministry Team invites you to a *Morning of Reflection* on **Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 8:30 am**. The *Morning of Reflection* will take place in the John XXIII room in the school building.

During the *Morning of Reflection* attendees will hear a variety of speakers share their experience of responding to God's call to vocation. Attendees will have the opportunity to pray and reflect on how they are being called by God to vocation and how responding to that call can lead to fulfillment and happiness.

A light continental breakfast will be provided at 8:30 am. Activities will get underway promptly at 9am. We will close out the morning with lunch at noon.

Please join us in what will be a very special morning. Attendance will be limited so **please register now** using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090544a9ac2dabf94-morning>

More information can be found on the St. Matthias website at <https://www.stmatthias.net/vocations>

We look forward to seeing you on November 13th!

Have a great day!



## St Matthias Social Justice Ministry



There are vast social justice issues that plague countries around the globe. They also exist in our own country, our own state, our own towns, the Catholic organization, and possibly in our own parish church and our own school.

Members on the Parish Pastoral Council have had many discussions this past year about the desire of St Matthias Parish to engage in social justice issues. In the spring of this year, a small group of people started discussing the need for a social justice ministry. As we listed the issues, the need to address racism was very much at the top of the list. A few more people joined this group and have been dialoguing for months, establishing a mission statement, a brochure and goals for our parish. So as not to duplicate any work from any other already established ministry, it was decided that this racism initiative be linked with Saint Martin de Porres Society, whose ministry is based on St. Martin De Porres, the saint of diversity. Our parish will be embarking on activities soon under this initiative.

Meanwhile, there are other injustices in our society that call for our attention as well. Pope Francis has certainly made social justice central in his teachings encyclicals and homilies. He is not afraid to discuss big social justice issues and encourages us all to contemplate social justice through the lens of the Gospels, which call us to love each other, to be neighbors to each other and to care for each other no matter who we are, where we come from or what our station is in society. Some of these issues include immigration/human migration, respecting LGBTQ+, voting rights, environment, healthcare, refugee crises, racial

Injustice, income disparities, gun violence, respect life, hunger and food insecurity.

The goal of this new Social Justice Ministry will be three-fold: education, discussion and action. Education is for ourselves to fully understand the totality of an issue. Discussion is for our reflection and discernment, knowing that we have much to learn from each other's experiences and wisdom. Action is for working towards change for a more loving world in our parish, our community and our world.

At this point we need to hear from you, the parishioners, as to what topics you personally would like to explore. We are looking also for people as resources for various topics, particularly if you have experience and knowledge to share. And finally, we are asking for individuals to be a part of a steering committee to explore how we can implement this new ministry and what we as a Parish can address to hopefully improve our hearts, our minds and our world. We especially would like to hear from and include our **young adults** into this new ministry.

If you feel called today

- to suggest topics for discussion
- to offer your knowledge/ expertise in an area
- to join the newly formed social justice steering committee,

Or if you are interested and want more information before deciding to join this ministry, please contact Rose Peng at [rosepeng@optonline.net](mailto:rosepeng@optonline.net) or Lorraine Farr at [lvfarr7@gmail.com](mailto:lvfarr7@gmail.com).

## Oh When the Saints Come Marching In

On November 1, 2021, the Solemnity of All Saints, our fifth grade students made the saints come alive for their grandparents and grandfriends during our school-wide mass. Dressed as the saint of their choice, several students addressed the assembly with a short biography of their chosen saint. Other students sang and proclaimed the readings, as well as sharing the general intercessions. It was a great day to remember all the

known and unknown holy men and women who have lived a life of faithfulness to God and to all people throughout the world. After the liturgical celebration, student saints and their grandparents/friends were welcomed to a reception in the school cafeteria. This year's celebration made an even greater impact since it was not possible to be held last year due to Covid. A holy and joyous day was enjoyed by all!





# Give (and Receive!)



## Only 11 Days Left to Purchase Your Super 50-50 Tickets?

The drawing will be on **Sunday, November 21, after the 10AM Mass** – the

Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Tickets are available in the Parish Office

and can be returned in an envelope in the collection basket, or by mailing them to St. Matthias Church, 168 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Somerset, NJ 08873. **All tickets must be returned to the Parish Office by 12 NOON, Thursday, November 18.**

This yearly fundraiser helps to fund the many vital ministries of our parish. By supporting this important effort you not only help our parish but, happily, if you win, Christmas will look very bright! Take a chance; this could be your year to win!

## Stewardship Reflection Nov 7, 2021

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

*I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living.” (Mark 12:43-44)*

Jesus gets right to the point – we are all called to give money to support the mission of the Church, regardless of our circumstance. No gift is too small or insignificant! Giving money to support the mission of our local parish is a matter of our faith, just like praying and participating in parish ministries. When you make a financial offering, is it from your “first fruits” or from what is “left over”?

## Reflexiónese — 7 de noviembre de 2021

Domingo 32° del Tiempo Ordinario

*“Yo les digo, esta pobre viuda puso más al tesoro que todos los otros contribuyentes. Porque ellos contribuyeron de su abundancia, pero ella en su pobreza ha puesto todo lo que tenía, su sustento.” (Marcos 12:43-44)*

Jesús fue justo al punto - somos llamados a dar dinero para apoyar la misión de la Iglesia, independientemente de nuestras circunstancias. ¡Ninguna donación es demasiado pequeña o insignificante! Dar dinero para apoyar la misión de nuestra parroquia local es un asunto de nuestra fe, al igual que lo es orar y participar en los ministerios parroquiales. Cuando usted hace una oferta financiera, ¿es de sus “primeros frutos” o de lo que “le sobra”?

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 14 - Oct. 3, 2021	\$20,369.00	\$14,890.25	\$35,259.25	\$22,124.68
Week 15 - Oct. 10, 2021	\$9,061.00	\$25,751.75	\$34,812.75	\$24,498.28
Week 16 - Oct. 17, 2021	\$7,988.00	\$12,834.25	\$20,822.25	\$33,007.63
Week 17 - Oct. 24, 2021	\$9,836.00	\$11,715.25	\$21,551.25	\$23,499.63
Week 18 - Oct. 31, 2021	\$8,206.00	\$9,412.25	\$17,618.25	\$26,952.30
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>Oct Total Last Yr</b>
All Saints Collection:	\$322.00		\$130,063.75	\$130,082.52
All Souls Collection:	\$1,225.00		<b>Current Year-to-date Total</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of Oct 31,</b>
			\$452,667.41	\$427,985.81

# Serve

## Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Nov 7, 2021

Pope Francis in “Gaudete et Exsultate” on the call to holiness in today's world says:

We need a spirit of holiness capable of filling both our solitude and our service, our personal life and our evangelizing efforts, so that every moment can be an expression of self-sacrificing love in the Lord's eyes. In this way, every minute of our lives can be a step along the path to growth in holiness.

The desire to be holy comes from the gift of the Holy Spirit within us. And the grace to remain holy also comes from the spirit.

The Holy Spirit is our helper, who gives us wisdom in all situations. It's the source of the divine gifts which not only help us to be holy but also helps us to live our life and carry out our vocation according to the will of our father.



**We Need Your Help Setting up 269 Christmas Trees!**



Our Christmas trees will be delivered in just 2 weeks! On **Saturday, November 20**, at approx. 10:00AM, (exact time will be confirmed a few days before), we need strong volunteers to help us carry the trees from the side parking lot to the posts. And we need volunteers to attach the trees to the posts using zip-ties.

On **Saturday, November 27, at 10 am**, we need volunteers to help us hang the Christmas lights on the trees. The lights are all net lights and we hang 2 nets (or sometimes 3) on each tree, and then connect them to the extension cords.

Volunteer for one Saturday or both Saturdays! Youth 12 and older welcome (all youth under 18 must be supervised by a parent/guardian). Please email Mary

Pat Burke-Grospin at [mpburke-grospin@smtatthias.net](mailto:mpburke-grospin@smtatthias.net) to let her know you will be coming. Thank you!

**Local Community**



**Diocesan 40th Anniversary Mass**

All are invited to attend the 40th Anniversary Mass marking the establishment of the Diocese of Metuchen on **Friday, November 19, 2021 at 7 p.m.**, at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, 32 Elm Avenue, Metuchen, NJ. The Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA, will be the celebrant and the homilist. For more information, please visit: [diometuchen.org/40](http://diometuchen.org/40).



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**Caritas Chamber Chorale**

**Friday, Dec. 3, 2021  
7:30 pm at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church, 600 Harris Avenue, Middlesex**

**Caritas Chamber Chorale**, will present an in-person *a cappella* Christmas concert, entitled **In Silence and Celebration**. The program is both a meditation on the incarnation and a celebration of the meaning of Christ's birth for us. Featuring Bruckner's *Virga Jesse*, the program will also offer marvelous arrangements of Advent and Christmas hymns and carols. Free admission. Free will donations gratefully accepted.

**Parish Leadership**

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b>	<b>Co-Secretaries:</b>	Marilyn Wegg	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b>	Audrey Francis
<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	Lorraine Farr and	Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio	Joe Porter, Chair	Kester Hector
Claudine Langrin	Anne Marie Francis	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio	<b>Finance Council</b>	Joan Pritchard
<a href="mailto:ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com">ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com</a> and	Rose Peng	<b>Trustees:</b>	<a href="mailto:@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a>	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell	Frank Rees	Isaac Peng	Susan Klimcsak	Ex-Officio
<a href="mailto:marybeth.vetter@gmail.com">marybeth.vetter@gmail.com</a>	Maria Tapia-Burch	Marge Richards	Barry Dusault	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
	John Taylor		Gwen Orłowski	

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

**Parish Registration** — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. [www.stmatthias.net/join-us](http://www.stmatthias.net/join-us), or visit the Parish Office.

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

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

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



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



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