



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, 10 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 Coordinator*,
ngodet

Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lg Guillen**
Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
Mary Jo Loboda, *Parish Staff, Development*,
mjloboda

Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for*
Faith Formation, **dnann**

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

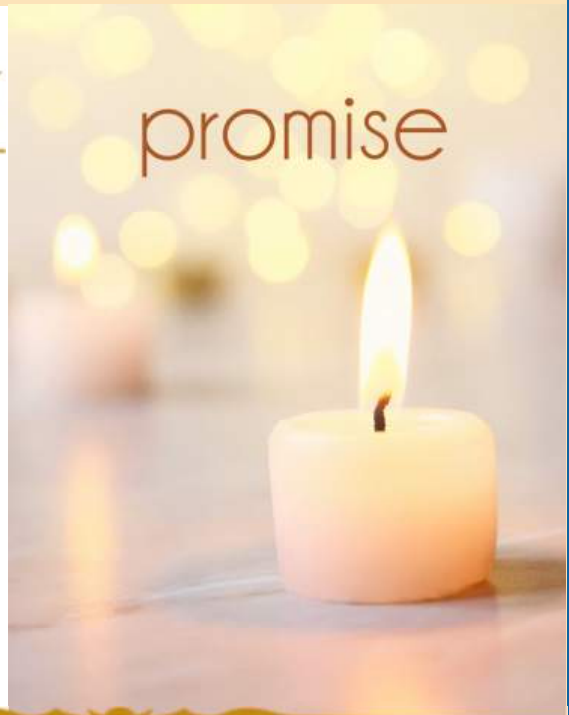
Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral*
Assoc. for Social Concerns, **msherwood**

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Next weekend
is the
Works of Mercy
Campaign
Collection**



Please come and be
enriched by the
Presentation of
Msgr. Greg Malovetz
on the Holy Eucharist
this **Wednesday,**
November 15th
at 7 p.m.
Come to the
St. John XXIIIrd
Conference Room
in the school.



Time to Volunteer for our "Tree-mendous" Spread the Light Event!
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25th at 9AM

Volunteers are needed on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25th** to move the
trees to the field and light them up.
We need at least 25 to 30 people to light the trees.

For more information see page 6 or visit: www.stmatthias.net/tree

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, Nov 12, 2023

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass-Sign Language Interpreter Church & Family Mass
 11:00AM Children’s Liturgy of the Word K-5 John XXIII Rm
 11:00AM 1st Reconciliation Prep #2 Church & clsrms
 12:00PM Mass Church
 12:00PM SMDP Society Visiting Priest, Fr. Gerard Marable

Monday, Nov 13, 2023 St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Kindness Day Religious & Foundress

8:00AM Mass /Miraculous Medal Novena Church
 6:00PM Eucharist Adoration Church

Tuesday, Nov 14, 2023 St. Laurence O’Toole, Archbishop of Dublin

8:00AM Mass Church
 6:30PM SMS, Multi-Sport Club Cafeteria
 6:30PM SMS, SAC Mtg. de Porres Rm
 7:30PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal Church

Wednesday, Nov 15, 2023 St. Albert the Great, Bishop & Doctor

8:00AM Mass, St. Joseph Novena Church
 9:30AM Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit de Porres Rm
 2:00PM Bereavement Group de Porres Rm
 7:00PM Eucharist Presentation - B John XXIII Rm
 7:30PM Folk Grp Rehearsal Church

Thursday, Nov 16, 2023 St. Margaret of Scotland, Queen Consort of Scotland

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Ruiz Rm
 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, Nov 17, 2023 St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Widow & Religious

8:00AM Mass Church
 9:00AM SMS: 8th Grade- Donor Mass Church
 10:00AM SMS Donor Reception John XXIII Rm
 10:00AM SMS: Honor Roll Gr. 5-8 Church

Saturday, Nov 18, 2023 Dedication - Basilicas of Peter & Paul

9:30AM Secular Franciscans de Porres Rm
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, Nov 19, 2023 Works of Mercy Campaign Christmas Tree Sponsorship DEADLINE

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 12:00PM Mass Church
 3:30PM SMYLE Youth Grp. Cafeteria



Dear Friends,

Out of over 17,000 Roman Catholic parishes in the US, about 800 are considered to be predominantly African-American. Our 12 noon Mass today is an opportunity for our parish community to celebrate National Black Catholic History Month – thanks to the initiative of our St. Martin de Porres Society. I am very happy to welcome Reverend Gerard C. Marable, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Galloway, NJ, as our presider.

When we recite the Creed on Sundays, we profess our belief in the “communion of saints.” The Book of Revelation 7:9 says: *“I saw a huge crowd After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue.”* This reminds us that the holy ones in heaven are diverse in terms of nationality, race, color or language. One takeaway we can learn about the National Black Catholic History Month is that there are over 100 saints from across the African diaspora. Currently, though there are no African-American saints, the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) has advanced beatification and canonization causes of six inspirational African American men and women: Venerable Pierre Toussaint, Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, Venerable Henriette DeLille, Venerable Augustus Tolton, Servant of God Julia Greeley, and Sister Thea Bowman. You can read more about these holy men and women in our bulletin this month.

The “communion of saints” reminds us of another celebration: commemoration of our departed brothers and sisters. The special Memorial Mass we celebrated on November 2nd evening was a very touching and meaningful liturgy. One of the emails I got stated: *“Because we could not be in NJ for the remembrance mass, we were thankful that St. Matthias live streamed it. We could be present for our mom along with all of those families who lost their loved ones as well.”* Yes, we do miss our departed dear ones and we continue to lift them up to God.

But this month is also meant to remind us of our own death – a topic that we rather not discuss or even think of. So it may sound strange to hear that there is a revival of an ancient practice called “Memento mori” or “remembering one’s own death.” Even before the Roman empire, meditation on death and the last things was a common practice of ancient philosophers like Plato. The phrase and the practice was then incorporated into medieval Christianity. “Memento mori” was such a popular religious theme in this period that it inspired a genre of art, music and literature.

The difference for the Christian is not only remembering our own personal death which of course will happen as there is an end to this earthly life, but Jesus has transformed our death into a new life of glory through his own resurrection. St. Benedict said to keep death before your eyes daily. St. Francis of Assisi had made peace with his own mortality, going so far as to call death his “sister.” Some-day Sister Death will greet us and we will go home to our God who created us, loves us, and re-deems us through Jesus our Savior. So this commemoration of the dead is not to make us scared but hopeful of our own future life of bliss with our dear ones in the Lord.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Wis 1:1-7; Ps 139:1b-10; Lk 17:1-6
 Tuesday: Wis 2:23 — 3:9; Ps 34:2-3, 16-19; Lk 17:7-10
 Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11; Ps 82:3-4, 6-7; Lk 17:11-19
 Thursday: Wis 7:22b — 8:1; Ps 119:89-91, 130, 135, 175; Lk 17:20-25
 Friday: Wis 13:1-9; Ps 19:2-5ab; Lk 17:26-37
 Saturday: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Ps 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43; Lk 18:1-8 or (for the memorial of the Dedication) Acts 28:11-16, 30-31; Ps 98:1-6; Mt 14:22-33
 Sunday: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 128:1-5; 1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30 [14-15, 19-21]



Mass Intentions for the Week

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------|---|
| Saturday, Nov 11 | 5:00PM | Anna Moran, by Joe, Ginny & Eileen |
| Sunday, Nov 12 | 8:00AM | Intention of Parishioners |
| | 10:00AM | Julia Nowakowski, by Daughter, Irene |
| | 12:00PM | Genarda Capuno, by The Capuno Family |
| Monday, Nov 13 | 8:00AM | Tippur Seshagiri, by The Eaton Family |
| Tuesday, Nov 14 | 8:00AM | Norvila Family, by The Norvila Family |
| Wednesday, Nov 15 | 8:00AM | Hubert & Rita Fowler, By Teresa & Bruce Cuddeback |
| Thursday, Nov 16 | 8:00AM | Jim Isola, by Theresa Rudnick-Jones |
| Friday, Nov 17 | 8:00AM | George Ripley, by The Family |
| Saturday, Nov 18 | 5:00PM | William Engravalle, by The Falk Family |
| Sunday, Nov 19 | 8:00AM | James & Mary Brennan & Family, By Msgr. Brennan |
| | 10:00AM | Intention of Parishioners |
| | 12:00PM | Marion Bradford, by Pat Dolphin |

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at kcoun@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 | Marie Godet | Aries Magali | Arina Robinson |
| Tammy Baskaran | Shelly Greene | Al Maglio | Maria Schwenzer |
| Samantha Bellouny | Linda Hartong | Christine Matthews | Amy Shepp |
| Tara Capatosto | Marilyn Horvath | Ann McElwee | Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF |
| Elizabeth Card | Amanda Isele | Ivette Michel | Sr. Bernadine Marie Stemnock |
| Kyle Davidson | Baby Elaine Isele | Gail Miranda | Anita Vance |
| Lisa DeFeo | Bill Johnson | Robert Pellegrino | Eileen Weber |
| Zenon DeGuzman | Renée Jolly | Robert Pietrowiak | Nancy Whelan |
| Marlene DiMaggio | Bill Kelleher | Randolff Pinard | Ginette Zamor |
| Hattie Evans | Betsy Kondrat | Valerie Polci | Anne Zando |
| Heinly Gaspard | Armando D. Liban | Kim Price | |
| Claudia Gemgnani | Mary Lou Litrakis | Denise Pultro | |
| Emma Gergely | John Litrakis | Doris Regan | |
| Gerry & Jack Gernert | Denis Loboda | Gabriel Rivera | |

And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Mary Ann Selenko, Martha “Marty” Shaw

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



When Bishop Philip Brooks, author of "O, Little Town of Bethlehem," was seriously ill, he requested that none of his friends come to see him. But when an acquaintance of his named Robert Ingersoll, the famous anti-Christian propagandist, came to see him he allowed him to enter his room. Ingersoll said, "I appreciate this very much, especially when you aren't letting any of your close friends see you." Bishop Brooks responded, "Oh, I'm confident of seeing them in the next world, but this may be my last chance to see you." 😊

A tour group was riding in an elevator to the top of the Empire State Building. At about the 102nd floor, a woman asked the tour guide, "If the cables on this elevator break, do we go up or down?" The tour guide answered, "Well, that depends on the kind of life you are living." 😊

My wife and I have started aggressively planning for our retirement, and by that I mean we're playing the lottery 3-5 times per week. 😊

These are the ten best things to say if you get caught sleeping at your desk:

- #10. "They told me at the blood bank this might happen."
 - #9. "This is just a 15-minute power-nap like they raved about in that time management course you sent me to."
 - #8. "Whew! Guess I left the top off the White-Out. You probably got here just in time!"
 - #7. "I wasn't sleeping! I was meditating on the mission statement and envisioning a new paradigm."
 - #6. "I was testing my keyboard for drool resistance."
 - #5. "I was doing a highly specific Yoga exercise to relieve work-related stress. Are you discriminating against people who practice Yoga?"
 - #4. "Darn! Why did you interrupt me? I had almost figured out a solution to our biggest problem."
 - #3. "The coffee machine is broken . . ."
 - #2. "Someone must've put decaf in the wrong pot . . ."
- And the #1 best thing to say if you get caught sleeping at your desk is: " . . . in His name. Amen."



Parenting Tune-Up

November is National Adoption Month. 30% of the nation's homeless adults have a history of foster care. Consider whether your family is in a position to provide a permanent home for a foster child. A loving family can break this sad cycle.

Marriage Tune-Up



"Whoever seeks Wisdom shall quickly be free from care." (Wisdom 6:15) Besides marrying you, what is a wise thing your beloved recently did or said?

LESSONS FROM THE DYING

"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps." Matthew 25: 1-13

A hospice nurse writes about the valuable lessons she has learned from her care of the dying: "Although I struggle, like every other human being, with the daily challenges of overwork, impatience, fear, anger, and disappointment, I know that it is always my choice instead to choose happiness, forgiveness, compassion, and joy, to live each day as if it were my last, and to be grateful for every day that I have. "Working with the dying has brought light into my own life, illuminating the shadowy corners of negativity that I alone have the choice to relinquish or to transform into something more positive. Even though the work I do is with the dying, it has also been work within myself, and I thank God every day for both of those opportunities.

"So, in the end, what is it that the dying teach others around them? They teach how to love and how to allow ourselves to be loved; how to forgive and how to ask for forgiveness;

how to find our joy and how to spread that joy around to others. They also teach us how to spend valuable time connecting our earthly self with our spiritual self so that these two separate but vital aspects of our being aren't strangers when they meet as the time of our own death draws near. "And so it is perhaps meant to be that, with every person's dying, another person is learning to live well. "Although I can't know for certain, I suspect from what I have witnessed that, possibly, the very best part of living might actually be the dying."

The parable of the ten bridesmaids reflects what this dedicated hospice nurse has learned from those entrusted to her care: that we have only so many opportunities to become part of Jesus' work of mercy and reconciliation; that we have only so much oil in our lamps to illuminate the love of God in our lives. There is so much we want to accomplish in our lives - but the many demands on our time to make a living derail us from making a life, a life that is centered in the love of family and friends, in an awareness of God's loving presence in our midst, in a yearning to

continued

Reflect

Lessons from the Dying (continued)

contribute to the greater good of all. Christ warns us not to fall into the trap of the five "foolish" bridesmaids who squander their time before the Bridegroom's arrival, but to embrace the wisdom of the five "wise" bridesmaids, trimming our "lamps" with the "oil" of compassion, generosity and forgiveness in the precious time we have until Christ's coming.

A True Stewardship Story!

Not long ago, two ministers of the gospel were waiting in line for seating at a restaurant. There were two immediate problems. First, the restaurant was popular because it served good food and secondly, the restaurant was smaller than your average fast food place. But the ministers, who frequently preach on patience, were offering a visible sermon by their calm demeanor. No matter that several people already seated appeared to be eating their meals extremely slowly. The ministers were next in line when suddenly like a mighty wind a group of six people came in behind them. And as luck sometimes has it, the next table to become available was one which could easily sit both ministers with room to spare. It could also seat all six of the people behind them in line.

If this were you, what would you do? Sit down when seating became available? After all, you were there first and we live in a first come, first served society. Or might the Jesus thing to do be to step aside and let the larger party have the larger table while waiting for the "next" available spot? Relax! This is a true story and thus, I can tell you exactly what happened. The ministers, being true to their convictions, gladly let the group of six have the table and they continued to wait patiently. In good time, they were able to sit down and order meals which they then took their own sweet time to devour. But no bill came because the people they allowed to eat ahead of them picked up the tab.

Jesus does not call us to be kind to others because we might get a free meal out of it. It is simply the right thing to do. Sometimes there is a reward, and it does not matter when there is not. Look at this story from God's point of view. Every day we receive blessings. Every day there are acts of kindness. Few of us need worry too much about whether we can afford our next meal. We have many reasons to pick up the tab for all the blessings God sends our way. That's what it means to be a good Steward! (Duane Grady in www.stewardshipresources.org)

"Bury me with a Fork in my Hand!"

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. As she was getting her things in order, she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the funeral Mass, what Scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and as the pastor was preparing to leave, the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly.



"What's that?" asked the pastor. "This is very important," the young woman continued. "I want my body to be buried with a fork in my right hand." The pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. "That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked. "Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the pastor. The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and that's where I got the idea. I have, also, always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending Church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork!' It was my favorite part of the meal because I knew that something better was coming, like chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder, "What's with the fork?" Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork--the best is yet to come."

Eight Steps toward a more Satisfying Life

In a TIME magazine sidebar, there were "Eight Steps toward a More Satisfying Life."

Here are the Eight Steps:

1. Count your blessings.
 2. Practice acts of kindness.
 3. Savor life's joys.
 4. Thank a mentor.
 5. Learn to forgive.
 6. Invest time and energy in friends and family
 7. Take care of your body.
 8. Develop strategies for coping with stress and hardship.
- (TIME, 17 (January 2005), A8-A9.)

Today when we reflect on the parable of the ten virgins, we add one more step, a 9th Step to the strategy: **Be prepared. Be prepared to step off life's planned paths, and**

continued

Reflect

Eight Steps (continued)

trust the Spirit. After all, the Spirit can appear in many guises, disguises, and surprises.

"What's your purpose in life, Bob?"

Josh McDowell tells about an executive "head-hunter" who goes out and hires corporation executives for large firms. This headhunter once told McDowell that when he gets an executive that he's trying to hire for someone else, he likes to disarm him. "I offer him a drink," said the headhunter, "take my coat off, then my vest, undo my tie, throw up my feet and talk about baseball, football, family, whatever, until he's all relaxed. Then, when I think I've got him relaxed, I lean over, look him square in the eye and say, "What's your purpose in life?" It's amazing," said the headhunter, "how top executives fall apart at that question." Then he told about interviewing one fellow recently. He had him all disarmed, had his feet up on his desk, talking about football. Then the headhunter leaned over and said, "What's your purpose in life, Bob?" And the executive who was being recruited said, without blinking an eye, "To go to heaven and take as many people with me as I can." "For the first time in my career," said the headhunter, "I was speechless." (Stories For the Heart, compiled by Alice Gray (Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah Books, 1996), p. 112.) No wonder. He had encountered someone who was prepared.

In today's gospel parable of the ten virgins Jesus warns us to be ever prepared to meet God our creator at the end of our lives to give an account of how we lived. Wise Christians live each day in the light of Jesus' vision. Such people find Him in the most ordinary experiences of daily living -- in the people they meet, the events that take place, and the situations in which they find themselves. They carefully make their daily choices for God. They are ready to put the commandment of love into practice by kindness and forgiveness. There is absolutely no better way to prepare for the final call than to learn to spend each day in the company of Jesus, remembering his assurance, "I am with you always." The following short prayer should be always on their lips: "Lord, grant that all my thoughts, intentions, actions and responses may be directed solely to your love and service this day." "Help me, Lord, to seek, to find, and to respond to you in every single experience this day." When we eventually hear the final call, "Get up! the Master is coming!" we will not be worried, but happy and more than ready to meet old friends and family in heaven. God has made this promise to us: "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

"Can you sleep when the wind blows?"

A young man applied for a job as a farm hand. When asked for his qualifications, he said, "I can sleep when the wind blows." This puzzled the farmer, but he liked the young man and hired him. A few days later, the farmer and his wife were awakened in the night by a violent storm. They quickly began to check things out to see if all were secure. They found that the shutters of the farmhouse had been securely fastened. A good supply of logs had been set next to the fireplace. The farm implements had been placed in the storage shed, safe from the elements. The tractor had been moved into the garage. The barn had been properly locked. Everything was fine. Even the animals were calm. It was then that the farmer grasped the meaning of the young man's words, "I can sleep when the wind blows." Because the farm hand had performed his work loyally and faithfully when the skies were clear, he was prepared for the storm when it broke. Consequently, when the wind blew, he had no fear. He was able to sleep in peace.

In the parable that is our gospel lesson today, Jesus is talking about exactly the same thing, being able to sleep when the winds blows, in other words, being prepared. Let us be sure that our Lamps are ready for the end of our lives: Spiritual readiness, preparation and growth do not just happen. It comes as a result of intentional habits built into one's life. You cannot depend on a Sunday morning service to provide all your spiritual needs. You cannot depend on Christian fellowship to provide you with spiritual development. It comes through routine, mundane attention to ordinary spiritual disciplines — making sure you have enough oil: spiritual fuel. It comes by taking time for prayer and being alone with God; reading God's Word; sacramental life; acts of service to others; moral faithfulness and loving obedience. It comes through spending time with other Christians for mutual prayer, study and encouragement. These are the things which enable a person to grow in Christ and be prepared for Christ's coming, as well as the normal difficulties of life. Without these things you will not be prepared. It cannot be hit and miss. It cannot be postponed. You cannot procrastinate or it may be too late. You need to develop some holy habits in your life which take precedence over other interests and claims on your life. As these habits become developed, they cease to be a struggle and begin to be a source of strength and blessing. They make your life powerful against the onslaught of the world.



TIME TO VOLUNTEER FOR OUR "TREE-MENDOUS" SPREAD THE LIGHT EVENT! SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH AT 9 AM

Volunteers are needed on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25th** to move the trees to the field and light them up. This is an excellent opportunity to earn service hours for our high school students! We need at least 25 to 30 people to assist. Please bring scissors and wear gardening gloves. We work in pairs so bring a friend if you can. **Work begins at 9 AM**, with a good group, we will be finished by noon! Any questions, call Jo-Ann Piagentini, 908-256-5173. **SEE YOU THERE!**

Pray



Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit

As part of the 3-yr program by USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) to study the real presence of the body, blood, soul & divinity of Jesus Christ, the St. Matthias Eucharistic Revival Committee hosted the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit based on Blessed Carlo Acutis's research. He hoped that by spreading awareness of the many documented Eucharistic miracles, people will be drawn into a deeper relationship with our Eucharistic Lord. The exhibit was held in the school cafeteria on Saturday, October 28th to Sunday, October 29th after each Mass and was well attended. A video on the Mass and the Relic of Blessed Carlo was also on display. Below is the link if anyone missed the exhibit.

<http://www.miracolieucaistici.org/galleria/en/galleria.html>
<https://youtu.be/jGzD2k3aKsg?si=QYVVVhWKpb3hOwgl>



October Baptisms

The Catholic community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in October. We support them with prayers and ask their parents to nurture them so they can grow to be faith-filled people of God and our parish community.

Xavier Vincent Andrade † *Eva Cantwell Salcedo* † *Lyncy Angelique Medina* † *Lily Alanna Seibert*

Diocesan Cemeteries Announce Pre-planning Promotion from November 1 - 19, 2023.

Please call 1-800-943-8400 for additional information and to schedule an appointment with a Memorial Counselor. Pre-planning discounts will be offered on in-ground burial, mausoleum entombment, and cremation niche options at both Resurrection Catholic Cemetery in Piscataway, and Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in East Brunswick/Jamesburg. Payment plans and financing options are available to fit every budget.

Pre-planning is a gift to your loved ones. Call 1-800-943-8400 today to set up an appointment.

Update from the 60th Anniversary Fundraising Committee

Dear Parishioner,

We, the St. Matthias 60th Anniversary Fundraising Committee, wish to give you an update:

To date, the 60th Anniversary Fundraising appeal raised **\$136,653**. We are so grateful for your support for this special appeal, and know that your financial commitment to this initiative has led to the enhancement of our worship space.

Projects completed:

- Refinishing of the church pews - \$19,000
- Construction of new bathroom - \$28,000
- Installation of church front entrance ramp - \$2,500
- Fundraising Costs - \$1,825
- Renovation of the small bathroom - \$12,000

Added project - Devotion Enhancement

- Installing 2 Adoring Angels and stands - \$11,852 - completed

Projects to be scheduled and completed:

- Cleaning of the church walls and stations of the cross - \$15,750 or \$24,403
- Steam cleaning of all fabric covered church chairs - \$877
- Steam cleaning of all carpet covered church floors - \$390

Total for all completed projects- \$75,177

Estimated total for completed and uncompleted projects - \$ 75,567

We will continue to provide updated information regarding fundraising and projects status, including some new suggestions brought to us for consideration.

Again, our sincere appreciation to all involved in this effort to renovate and clean our place of worship.

Sincerely,

St. Matthias 60th Anniversary Fundraising Committee





St. Martin de Porres Society Volunteer Events

The St. Martin De Porres Society pulled together to donate much needed items for the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick. In addition, on October 25th, Ivette and Ricky Michel, Pearl Scott and Phyllis Stone from the society donated their time and talents to prepare a scrumptious dinner for the residents at the RMH which included stewed chicken, toss salad, stuffed squash, and rice and beans. The residents were well pleased with the donations as well as the dinner. A fine example of service in action.



“The saints of God speak the same language.” Somali proverb

The saints of Africa number in the thousands (including 3 Popes) and today, Africans are the fastest growing population in the entire global Catholic Church. Currently, there are six African Americans on the road to sainthood. Throughout the month of November, we will feature the six African Americans on this journey - *Servants of God*, Sr. Thea Bowman, Julia Greeley, and Mary Lange, and the *Venerables Pierre Toussaint, Henriette Delille and Augustus Tolton*, born of slaves in the US and ordained as the first African American priest. Today, we feature Augustus Tolton .



Venerable Augustus Tolton was born in the U.S. to two slaves, Peter Paul Tolton and his wife Martha Jane, on April 1, 1854. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Peter Paul hoped to gain freedom for his family and escaped to the North where he served in the Union Army and was one of the 180,000 blacks who were killed in the war. His widow decided that she would see her husband’s quest for freedom realized in his children. After she managed to cross the Mississippi River she made her way to Illinois and settled in the small town of Quincy. When her children attempted to attend Catholic school to be educated by the Sisters of Notre Dame, parents of the other school children were not happy. So, the Sisters tutored the Tolton children privately. Augustus after trying without success to enter several seminaries to study for the priesthood, was educated in theology by his parish priests, and finally in 1878, the Franciscan College in Quincy accepted Augustus, and two years later he was enrolled at the college of the Propaganda Fidei in Rome. After completing his courses in Rome, Augustus Tolton was ordained on April 24, 1886. His first assignment was Saint Joseph parish in his hometown of Quincy. Later he was given a parish on the south side of the city, Saint Augustine, which later became Saint Monica. This would be Fr. Tolton’s parish for life, and the center from which he ministered to all the Black Catholics of Chicago. He addressed the First Catholic Colored Congress in Washington DC in 1889. His cause for canonization was begun in 2010. In 2015, the cause received affirmation of the juridical validity of the Archdiocesan inquiry into his life and virtues by the Congregation for Causes of Saints, and so Fr. Tolton received the distinction of Servant of God.



The Venerable Henriette Delille was born in 1812 in New Orleans, Louisiana, as a free woman of color. When she was 24, she experienced a religious conversion and proclaimed: “I believe in God. I hope in God. I love. I want to live and die for God.” Henriette eventually founded the Society of the Holy Family, responding to the need of treatment for the enslaved, elderly and sick, and care and education for the poor. Henriette received tribute for her life’s work in these words from her obituary: “[Henriette] devoted herself untiringly for many years, without reserve, to the religious instruction of the people of New Orleans, principally of slaves...” The last line of her obituary reads: “... for the love of Jesus Christ she had become the humble and devout servant of the slaves. Archbishop Philip M. Hannan began the canonization process for Henriette DeLille in 1988. A special commission in Rome gave approval in 1988 after a review process. As of this time, an alleged miracle attributed to Henriette is being tried in a Catholic Tribunal, and the decree of judicial validity was issued in the investigation of her life, virtues, and reputation of sanctity. Henriette was declared Venerable by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010.

Learn



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<https://www.stmatthias.info/> 732-828-1400



Looking for a Chess Club Facilitator for Grades 3-8 at St. Matthias School

If anyone is interested in facilitating a Chess Club for grades 3-8.

Please Contact Principal Mary Lynch at 732-828-1402 <https://www.stmatthias.info/>



**SMS
Clothing
Drive**

**November 28th
2pm-5pm**

Bring your gently used clothing,
shoes, coats etc in bags to Saint
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sheds.



**CRAFT FAIR
DONATIONS**

We are in need of new items such
as toys, gifts, gift cards and cash
donations to help us fill baskets
for the basket raffle fundraiser

at the SMS Craft Fair on

Sunday, December 3rd, 2023

Please send donations to the

Office by Monday, November 27th.

Serve

Dear Cherished Parishioners:

On behalf of the **St Vincent de Paul Society at St Matthias**, I would like to thank you for your most generous donations to our ministry, which normally have enabled us to serve those in great need who live in Franklin Township and the surrounding communities. When a donation is made, in the poor boxes throughout the church or in an envelope marked SVDP and placed in the collection basket, your funds go toward paying rent arrears, making a security deposit on a new apartment, or toward utilities to maintain or restore service. We also provide our neediest clients and their families with extra food and gift cards for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Your donations save numerous neighbors from homelessness every year, sometimes as late as the day the client is to be locked out of their home, losing all the possessions within.



At present there is an onslaught of evictions due to post-pandemic increases in rents, while current increases in the cost of living exceed wages. Our neighbors must work even harder to avoid eviction, keep the lights and heat on, and to feed their children. At the current rate, which doesn't appear to be letting up, we could be out of resources by year's end. You can help by setting up a monthly donation to Parish Giving or a direct payment to our ministry from your bank account. Please access our website (www.SVDPatSM.org) for more information on giving.

Our clients are humbled and very grateful for all that we can do for them, giving them a fresh start after months of worry and struggle.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family,

Jeanine Valenti, SVDP HelpLine Coordinator and Case Lead

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 10 - November 5, 2023 | \$11,350.50 | \$17,757.75 | \$29,108.25 | \$28,125.75 |
| Week 11 - November 12, 2023 | | | \$0.00 | \$29,089.50 |
| Week 12 - November 19, 2023 | | | \$0.00 | \$21,264.25 |
| Week 13 - November 26, 2023 | | | \$0.00 | \$19,212.25 |
| | | | Month-to-date Total | November Total Last |
| | | | \$29,108.25 | \$97,691.75 |
| | | | Current Year-to-date | Year-to-date as of |
| | | | \$1,836,612.86 | \$1,871,586.06 |

Stewardship Reflection November 12, 2023 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” - Matthew 25:13

Many of us have put off doing something because we think we are too busy. We’ve all said, “I’ll do it later when I have time.” Unfortunately, too many of us apply this attitude to our Faith. Jesus’ call is urgent, in the here and now, in your current circumstances. How is God calling you to use your gifts today? Don’t delay. None of us is guaranteed tomorrow.

Reflexiónese 12 de noviembre 2023 Domingo 32º del Tiempo Ordinario

“Por lo tanto, estén atentos, pues no sabemos ni el día ni la hora.” - MATEO 25:13

Muchos de nosotros postergamos hacer algo porque pensamos que estamos demasiado ocupados. Todos hemos dicho alguna vez, “lo haré más tarde cuando tenga tiempo”. Desafortunadamente, muchos de nosotros aplicamos esa actitud a nuestra Fe. El llamado de Jesús es urgente, aquí y ahora, en nuestras circunstancias actuales. ¿Cómo lo llama Dios a utilizar sus dones en este momento? No lo deje para más tarde. Ninguno de nosotros tiene garantizado el mañana.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The parish office is in need of volunteers Monday - Friday mornings. If you have some free time, please contact Mary Pat in the parish office, (732) 828-1400. Thank you for all you do for St. Matthias.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Frank Rees
Frees814@gmail.com
Marilyn Wegg
mcw-wam@comcast.net

Co-Secretaries:

Stephen Busono
sbusono@gmail.com
Bill Isele
t33sm@aol.com
Al Drabnis
Didi Molano

Sheila Tartaglia

Fr. Lancelot McGrath,
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Pearl Scott
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

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

Audrey Francis
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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