



St. Matthias Parish Office

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

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

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

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

Leslie Guillen, **Bulletin Coordinator**, **lgullen**
Amy Hanna, **Accountant/Databases**, **ahanna**
Mike Lanyi, **Sacristan**

Sue Lenczewski, **Youth Coordinator**, **SMYLE**
Julio Montero, **Maintenance Supervisor**
Debra Schurko, **Director of Religious Education**,
dschurko

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

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

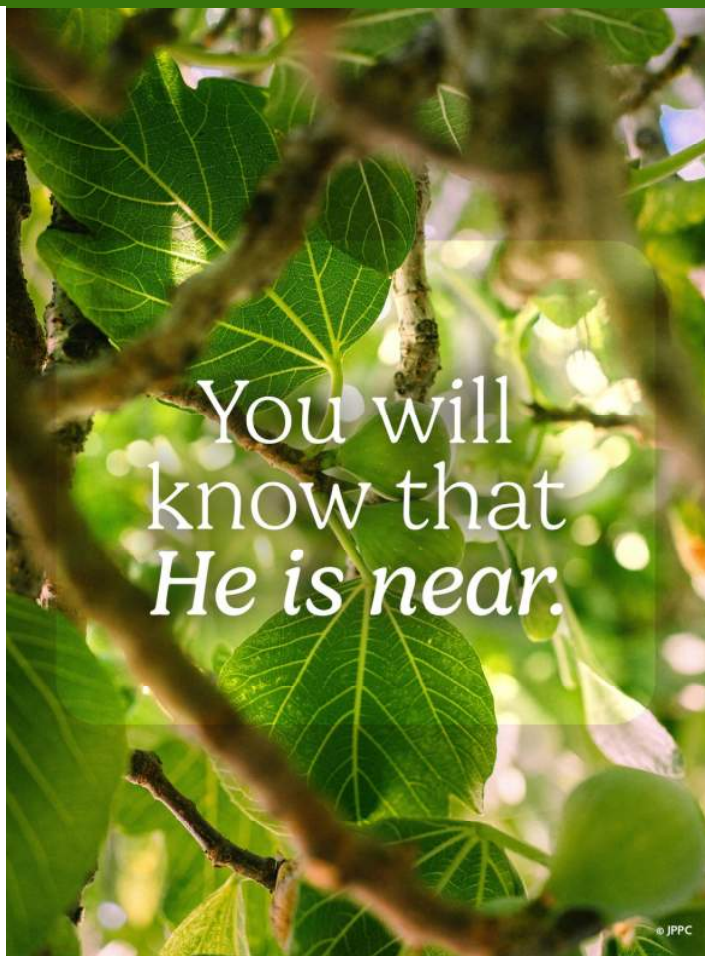
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



There
will be a
second
collection
next
weekend
for the
Works of
Mercy
Campaign



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SPREAD THE LIGHT!



Please consider sponsoring a tree
and/or volunteering to set up.

For more details please see page 9.



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME
QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.
OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING,
NOVEMBER 18, 2024 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.
WHEN THE DEACON IS AVAILABLE,
WE CONCLUDE ADORATION WITH A BENEDICTION.

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 17, 2024

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
4:00PM	SMYLE Meeting	Cafeteria

Monday, Nov 18, 2024 **Dedication of Basilicas of Peter & Paul**

8:00AM	Mass, Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
6:00PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00PM	Cub Scout Pack 195 Meeting	Cafeteria

Tuesday, Nov 19, 2024 **Our Lady of Divine Providence, Patroness of Puerto Rico**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:30PM	Handbell Rehearsal	Church

Wednesday, Nov 20, 2024 **Felix of Valois**

8:00AM	Mass St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Group	de Porres Rm
6:30PM	GS Troop 63202 Mtg.	Pre K classroom
7:30PM	Folk Group rehearsal	Church

Thursday, Nov 21, 2024 **The Presentation of Mary**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Ruiz Rm
3:30PM	Children's Choir, Grades 3 & 4	Church
4:00PM	Children's Choir Grades 5-8	Church
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

Friday, Nov 22, 2024 **St. Cecelia, Martyr**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:00AM	Donor Mass/Reception	Church & John XXIII Rm
6:45PM	Boy Scout Troop 154 mtg.	Cafeteria

Saturday, Nov 23, 2024 **St. Clement, I, Pope & Martyr**

Fall into Faith Ends

Works of Mercy Campaign Collection

10:00AM	Caregivers Meeting	de Porres Rm
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

Sunday, Nov 24, 2024

Works of Mercy Campaign Collection

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church

BULLETIN ARTICLE REQUESTS:

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

Dear Friends,

Our parishioners doing the "Fall Into Faith" Bible sharing sessions are having a greater understanding of the Word of God while experiencing true fellowship with one another. Some of them asked me a question about the Synod on Synodality. Many of us may or may not be aware that the Synodal process has been going on for the past three years and that it concluded last month – on October 26 in Rome.

Pope Francis is very passionate about restoring the church as the people of God. **He wants the church to be a communion and not a corporation.** So he initiated one of the most consultative processes in Church history, when he called for the Synodal journey in 2021, asking all the Catholics around the world to send their input to him through their respective dioceses, to be discussed in the assembly of delegates in Rome. Instead of the usual gathering of bishops, he included lay people in the synod for the first time with voting rights. Some critics of the synod (including priests, bishops and cardinals) did not agree with the pope's vision as they accused him of democratizing or protestantizing the Catholic Church which they claim must always be hierarchical. But Pope Francis aimed to balance traditional Church teaching with contemporary pastoral needs while promoting greater inclusivity and transparency in Church governance.

The 52 page Final Document, approved by 355 synod members in attendance, outlines substantial proposals for Church renewal, organized into five main sections and calls for five forms of conversion: spiritual, relational, procedural, institutional, and missionary. The document contains the following main proposals (condensed by Pierre-Alain Giffard):

Study Areas for Groups: The Synod encourages specialized groups to delve deeper into ten critical areas, such as the relationship between Eastern and Latin Churches, supporting the poor, and adapting mission efforts to the digital world, to better align Church life with modern challenges and synodal ideals.

Transparency and Accountability: The proposal emphasizes that transparency in Church governance, especially through public reports and audits, can help build trust and ensure the Church is responsibly managing resources, while also upholding values of inclusion and equality, such as balanced gender representation in decision-making bodies.

Empowering Episcopal Conferences: By strengthening the role of Episcopal Conferences, the Church can allow for more locally responsive doctrinal and pastoral care that respects cultural diversity, while still preserving the unity and integrity of the Catholic faith worldwide.

Inclusivity for People with Disabilities: This proposal suggests an Ecclesial Observatory on Disability, aiming to foster active involvement of individuals with disabilities, ensuring their unique contributions enrich Church life and outreach.

Strengthening Family and Marital Support: Recognizing families as vital contributors to the Church's mission, this proposal advocates for networks that support families in pastoral roles, allowing them to actively participate in evangelization and service within their communities.

Promotion of Synodal Decision-Making: Encouraging synodal processes at all levels aims to make decision-making more inclusive and reflective of the broader Church community, fostering shared discernment and updating canon law to clearly define consultative and decision-making roles.

If these wonderful proposals are implemented, the Church will move from being a corporation to a communion of the people of God.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday Rv 1:1-4, 2:1-5 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6
Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday Rv 3:1-6, 14-22 Rv 3:1-6, 14-22 Lk
19:1-10

Wednesday Rv 4:1-11 Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6
Lk 19:11-28

Thursday Rv 5:1-10 Ps 149:1B-2, 3-4, 5-6A
and 9B Lk 19:41-44

Friday Rv 10:8-11 Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111,
131 Lk 19:45-48

Saturday Rv 11:4-12 Ps 144:1, 2, 9-10 Lk
20:27-40

Sunday Dn 7:13-14 Ps 93:1, 1-2, 5 Rv 1:5-8
Jn 18:33b-37 27 and 29 Lk 17:7-10



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., November 16	5:00PM	Gertrude & Lee Quinn by Maureen Quinn Mount Blessings for Claire Gatarz by Holy Spirit Prayer Group
Sun., November 17	8:00AM	Lena Sciotto by Jody Martielli
	10:00AM	Deceased Brothers of Knights of Columbus by Knights of Columbus
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Mon., November 18	8:00AM	Steven C. M. King, by Mom, Eileen
Tues., November 19	8:00AM	George Ripley, by Nina Ripley & Family
Wed., November 20	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Isabelle Mallare, by Daughter
Thurs., November 21	8:00AM	Al Maglio, by Scott & Barbara Loeffler
Fri., November 22	8:00AM	Bill & Gertrude Schuller, by Brian & Mary Frances
Sat., November 23	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
	5:00PM	Edward J. O'Conner, by Ralph Bonadies and Erika Marold
Sun., November 24	8:00AM	Rose Marie La Torre, by husband, Anthony & Family
	10:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Iraida Candelaria, by Menchie Ventura
	12:00PM	In Loving Memory of Hector Concha Moreno, by The Moreno Family

Pray for those who are sick...

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

New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.

Sue Alese	Heinley Gaspard	Linda Leone	Robert Pellegrino	Richard Sury
Edgar Banaag	Emma Gergely	Henrietta Lesiak	Robert Pierro	Jacqueline Taylor
Carolyn Banghart	Claude Godet	John Litakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Anita Vance
Ghislaine Baron	Marie Godet	Mary Lou Litakis	Randolff Pinard	Minda Villarica
Samantha Bellouny	Shelly Greene	Aries Magali	Valerie Polci	Eileen Weber
Carmen Bender	Linda Hartong	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Kim Price	Nancy Whelan
Mary Bostrom	Jeff Hentz	Susan, King & Tosh	Frank Rispoli	GINETTE Zamor
Tara Capatosto	Marilyn Horvath	Manansala	Gabriel Rivera	Celia M. Zelinski
Rustico Castellano	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Colleen Maniscalco	Bob Rotz	Anne Zando
Lisa DeFeo	Marilyn Jensen	Alexandra Marquez	Marisa Ruppel	
Sanora Doyen	Jean Alix Jolly	Christine Matthews	Maria Schwenzer	And for all who are ill,
Andrea Dubuisson	Marie Claude Jolly	Ann McElwee	Amy Shepp	homebound, elderly,
Derowitsch Family	Donna Kahora	Jessica Marie Merrick	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	in nursing care, or
Hattie Evans	Betsy Kondrat	Gail Miranda	Timothy Siclari	living with chronic
Margaret Ann Cichon	Kim Krikorian	Menchie Molano-	Catherine Steele	illness, we pray.
Ford	Kathy Langenbacher	Sotelo	Sr. Bernadine Marie	
Sharon Gadomski	Rose Larangeira	Sarah Braun Morini	Stemnock	

Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." *Chronicles*

Jean Elguicze, mother of Mary Lynch

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?" 😊

There is the story of a little girl in Milwaukee who had a tonsil inflammation and was staying with her grandmother while her parents were at work. She often complained of a sore throat and pain. "I have some holy water from Lourdes that I got from my mother," the grandmother said. "Should I apply a little of it on your neck?" The girl thought for a moment and then asked, "What's the expiration date on it?" 😊

The first rule of Thesaurus Club is: You don't talk about, mention, speak of, discuss or chat about Synonyms Club 😊

The first rule of Synonyms Club is that you do not talk, whisper, chatter, mumble, rant, articulate, prattle, babble, describe, divulge, drone, confer, deliberate, squeal, converse, discourse, orate or speak about Thesaurus Club 😊

Mortified doesn't describe how Jane's parents felt after meeting her boyfriend. He sported vile tattoos, swore and just had a hostile air about him. After he left, the mother said, "Dear, he doesn't seem like a very nice person." "Mom," Jane said, "if he wasn't nice, why would he be doing 500 hours of community service?" 😊

A pregnant woman lapses into a coma. She awakens and frantically calls for her doctor. "You had twins, a boy and a girl. They're fine," he says. "Your brother named them." Oh, no, the new mother thinks. He's an idiot. Expecting the worst, she asks, "What's the girl's name?" "Denise," the doctor says. Not bad, she thinks. I guess I was wrong about him. "And the boy?" "DeNephew." 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

"Where there is forgiveness..." (Hebrews 20:18)
Where indeed is there forgiveness today? Is there anyone you or your child need to forgive to make peace in the family or with your neighbor (or your enemy) before the season of peace can begin?

Marriage Tune-Up

Another week for Thanksgiving...
Time to review whose job it is to cook, to decorate, to entertain guests...
Remember the Martha and Mary story (Luke 10:41). Want to try anything different this year?



A Pearl of Wisdom For This Week

Friendship is like a book. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.

"In the end, all will be fine ..."

Robert Muller was an undersecretary of the United Nations. He wrote practically using apocalyptic imagery: "We are witnessing a unique moment of evolution, the birth of collective organs in the human species. For the first time humankind is emerging as a global organism with a common blood stream, a central nervous system, a shared heart, a corporate brain, and a common destiny." He said it is a secular way. The prophet and today's Gospel uses terms that are more mystical. Let us live with this vision: humanity in labor to give birth –through distress and pain –to that human and divine organism of whom Jesus is the head.

Let us take heart and not get frightened: The end of the world should never be thought of as depressing, disheartening or frightening because we are in the hands of a good and loving God. Christ's second coming gives us the message that God is journeying with us in the trials and difficulties of life and that His word is ever-present as a light of hope. He speaks to us through the Bible. We have the Eucharist as a sign that God is with us, in our midst. Holy Communion is our point of direct, personal contact with God. That is why the holy Mass is special: the more fully and frequently we participate in the Mass, the more deeply the Lord can come to us, and the more completely He can remain with us. Let no one frighten us with disturbing descriptions of the end of the world because "the end" is all about the birth of everyone and everything into eternity.

Changing Places

“Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happenings, know that [the Son of Man] is at the gates.” Mark 13: 24-32

In a touching essay in **The Boston Globe** [November 5, 2017] Vermont writer Martha Hurwitz tells a story many of us all know too well: that of moving from caregiver to cared for. Martha’s elderly mother lived in the small upstairs apartment. Mom’s presence was both a joy and a burden to Martha. Mom was pretty much managing on her own for the most part, but now Martha admits that she overlooked the signs of her mother’s slide toward dependence for fear of what the ultimate burden might look like and how it would affect Martha’s already busy and stressful life. Then, one evening, her mom tearfully begged, “Please come up right away.” Martha flew up the stairs and, in an instant, the roles of mother and child reversed, the roles shifted, and the ultimate responsibility for all life’s important decisions changed hands.

Fifteen years later, Martha’s daughter, Rachel, returned home to live in Mom’s old apartment, empty since she died in 2004. Shortly after Rachel moved in, Martha ruptured a disk and damaged the nerves and muscles in her knee. Surgery was required, followed by a slow recovery. And care. Rachel was wonderful, a blessing to Martha as she recovered. As she watched her daughter care for her, Martha hoped that the help she provided her mother 15 years before was such a blessing. However, one day, several weeks after her surgery, Martha noted a change in Rachel’s demeanor: stress and distraction, as Rachel took care of some task her mom still couldn’t manage on her own. And Martha remembered that moment when she ran upstairs to answer her mother’s call.

Martha said to Rachel, “You know, I remember how difficult it was for me what I first realized that Grandma Avis was struggling to manage her daily life. I’m sure it’s hard for you to see me with a cane, having trouble walking and being in pain.” Rachel’s face softened. “Yes. That’s true. It is sad and hard for me.” Martha reflects: “It is sad and hard for me, too. Now I am the aging parent, and we are entering that blurred, gray area, where sometimes she will be the mother and I the child. I know it is the nature of human life, this decline and the passing on of responsibility, and it is not ultimately under our control. For each of us, though, it is both a joy and a burden.”

The sign of the Gospel fig tree can take many forms in our lives. For these three generations of women, while the independence afforded by good health yields to the dependence of aging and physical need and the roles of caregiver and cared for reverse, love remains constant. With eyes and hearts of faith, we can recognize such “signs” of God’s love in our changing worlds and passing stages. Change – sometimes frightening, often traumatic, and seldom easy – is part of that journey for all of us. But when our “heavens and earths” pass away, the promise of the life of God and the values of the Gospel remain constant. With every change in direction, with every wrinkle of age, with every changing world and passing stage, God’s love remains the constant that leads us in hope to the dwelling place of God.

End of the World Predictions!

People have been predicting the end of the world since the first century. St. Paul thought Christ would return in his lifetime. In 960, German theologian, Bernard of Thuringia, calculated the end of the world would come in 992. Some were so sure the world was going to end in 1000 A.D. that they did not bother to plant crops. Astrologer, Johann Stoeffler, said the world would be flooded on February 20, 1524. Solomon Eccles, in 1665, ran through the streets of London carrying blazing sulfur on his head announcing that the world was going to go up in flames within the year. In 1874, Charles Russell, founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses, concluded that Christ had already returned, but people would have another forty years of grace. In 1914, the denomination was forced to revise its timetable. Herbert Armstrong, in his publication, *Plain Truth*, set the date for the end of the world as January 7, 1972. The Year 2000, and more specifically, the projected Y2K computer problem, caused many to think that the “end was at hand.” Some people made statements such as “a United Nations world-takeover is imminent” and that “Y2K will be the event that they use.”

In 2011, a warning by a U.S. Evangelical preacher, Harold Camping, that the Rapture would happen that year on May 21 prompted many followers of his evangelical ministry to quit their jobs and sell everything they owned. Camping’s Christian media empire spent millions of dollars to warn about the Rapture on thousands of billboards around the country. When May 21 came and went Rapture-less, Camping said that he had gotten the day wrong, and that it would happen five months later. Then he said he realized that the significant day would not involve any physical manifestation, but a spiritual kind of Judgment Day. Camping, who died in 2013 at the age of 92, gave up prophecies shortly after his failed prediction.



“He’ll find me hoeing cotton when he comes”

There is a beautiful Afro-American Spiritual song about waiting for the Lord’s second coming doing one’s duty faithfully:

There’s a king and a captain high, and he’s coming by and by
And he’ll find me hoeing cotton when he comes.
You can hear his legions charging, the regions of the sky
And he’ll find me hoeing cotton when he comes.

Let us recognize the “second coming” of Jesus in our daily lives. Today’s Gospel reminds us of a “coming” of God which we tend to forget, namely, God’s daily coming to us in the ordinary events of our lives. We must learn to recognize and welcome Him in these everyday occurrences – happy, encouraging, painful or disappointing – always remembering that He comes without warning. Let us remember that the Lord is present wherever people treat each other with gentleness, generosity, and thoughtfulness. Hence, let us try to bring Jesus to earth, as Blessed Mother Teresa puts it: “by doing little things to others around us with great love.”

Cry, the Beloved Country

Alan Paton was a South African writer. Among the books he wrote was the haunting story, *Cry, the Beloved Country*, which poignantly described the situation in South Africa under *apartheid*. Paton had a dream. He dreamt of a new day for his beloved South Africa, a day in which there would be justice and equality for all. For this reason, he entered into politics and fought to end the iniquitous system of *apartheid*. For decades, he followed his dream, and worked generously and courageously to make it a reality. It was a dream that many said would not be realized. Yet it was. Unfortunately, Paton did not live to see it. He died before the dawn. The prophet Isaiah had an even bolder dream, a dream of universal brotherhood and peace. Isaiah’s vision was a splendid one. It would only be realized by the coming of the Lord Jesus.

Saints & End Times

St. Francis of Assisi, Saint of Nature, was hoeing his garden one day. A philosopher friend approached him and asked, “What would you do if you learned you would die before the sun sets?” St. Francis reflected for a moment and replied, “I would finish hoeing my garden. I would be faithful to what I am doing now.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was asked by critics, “Why do you expose yourself to all this danger? Jesus will return any day and all your work and suffering will be for nothing.” Bonhoeffer said, “If Jesus returns tomorrow, then tomorrow I will rest from my labors, but today I have work to do. I must continue.”

A Christian need not be scared or worried

Jesus gives a warning lesson from the fig tree, using stock prophetic expressions well known to his listeners (Ezra 9:3; 13:1; Baruch 27:5-13; Amos 8:9; Joel 2:10, 3:15; Ezekiel 32: 7, 8; Isaiah 27:13, 35; Micah 7:12; Zechariah 10:6-11). The fig tree sprouts its leaves in late spring heralding the summer season. The application of this image to the end of the world suggests that the end of the world will mean good times, or summer, for Jesus’ disciples, because their God will be bringing things to a triumphant end and His Truth, Love and Justice will prevail forever.

Jesus tells us that our personal “endtime” is a prelude to eternal happiness. However, we are all so taken in by our secular culture’s fascination and glamour that we are sometimes embarrassed or saddened by the signs of our own approaching end. We foolishly consider growing old as an evil thing, rather than as a warning from a loving God to prepare to meet Him and to give an account of our lives. Our aches and pains and frequent “doctor’s appointments” in our senior years should remind us of God’s warning that we are growing unfit to live in this world, and that we have to get ready for another world of eternal happiness. Instead of worrying about our passing years towards the sunset of our lives, we are asked to live every day of our lives in loving God living in others, by our committed service. Thus, we will enter into a deeper relationship with God, which will continue when we pass through death into a different kind of life. Hence, let us take the spirit of the 27th Psalm: “Wait for the Lord. Take courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord” (v. 14).

INVITATION TO YOUNG MEN FOR A SPECIAL EVENT

The Vocations Office of our Diocese of Metuchen will be hosting a special event at Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University. This event is a wonderful opportunity for young men from our parish—whether they are in high school, college, or older—to experience seminary life firsthand and discern their vocation. It will be held on **Tuesday, December 3rd, at 5 PM**, and gather to celebrate Evening Prayer, share a meal with the seminarians, and enjoy a guided tour of the seminary .

Please RSVP to TLanza@diometuchen.org

Pray



RCIA

We are very happy to announce that a good group of adults and teens have registered for the new class for RCIA (now renamed as OCIA). But you might know someone, in your families or friendship circles, who has not received the Sacrament of Holy Communion or Confirmation. Kindly ask them to contact our RCIA Coordinators:

Anne Marie Francis at alfrancis.30@gmail.com or Mary Frances Reavey at mfreavey@gmail.com

We are making it easy for all to attend these sessions by meeting on Sundays after the 10 am Mass. These sessions are conducted not in a lecture or class model but as a faith-sharing group that is truly fun to learn and have good support in the faith journey.



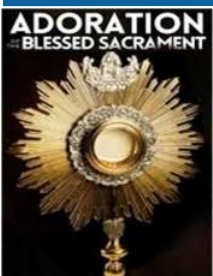
ST. MATTHIAS 2025 MASS INTENTIONS GUIDELINES

Mass Intentions: It is an ancient and noble practice to pray for the living and the dead during Mass. The greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass, since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption made present to us. Therefore, so many of us seek to book a Mass intention for our loved ones, living or deceased.

A Mass intention may be requested for: a deceased loved one; a living person who is sick or suffering; a living person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special moment in their life; in thanksgiving to God (including the Lord Jesus or the Holy Spirit); in thanksgiving for a favor received through the intercession of a Blessed or a Saint; or for a prayer intention (so long as the intention does not contradict Church teaching).

Opening of our Book of Mass Intentions. Our 2025 Book of Mass Intentions will be opened on Monday, November 11, 2024, 8:30 AM in the Parish Office. To accommodate all our parishioners, we will continue the limit of four (4) Masses, that is, two (2) weekday Masses and a maximum of two (2) Weekend Masses. You can return on or after December 10 for additional Mass requests. It is good for us all to know of the different kinds of Mass intentions:

- 1) **Announced Weekday Mass Intentions:** The suggested stipend for weekday Mass remains the same: \$10.00. The intention will be printed in the bulletin and announced during Mass. Please be sure to indicate if the person for whom the Mass requested is living (L) or deceased (D).
- 2) **Announced Weekend Mass Intentions:** The suggested stipend for Weekend Mass is \$15.00. The intention will be printed in the bulletin and announced at Mass. Please be sure to indicate if the person for whom the Mass requested is living (L) or deceased (D).
- 3) **Multiple Intentions:** With increasing requests for additional Mass intentions during unforeseen special occasions such as death, month's mind, etc., it is a pastoral practice to better accommodate such needs of our parishioners by allowing additional intentions with the existing intention for the Mass. In such cases, we will be accepting only one additional intention, which will be announced in the Universal Prayers (Prayers of the Faithful) but not necessarily in the bulletin. Please know that the stipend for this additional intention (\$10 for weekdays and \$15 for Weekends) will be sent to the Mission Office of our Diocese or to missionary priests.
- 4) **Unannounced Mass Intentions:** There will be no limit on unannounced Mass requests. These Masses are available at any time and are sent either to the Office of Missions of the Diocese of Metuchen or to missionary priests. The suggested stipend remains the same: \$10.00.
- 5) **Mass for the People (Missa Pro Populo):** One Sunday Mass per weekend is offered for the intention of the living and deceased parishioners of St. Matthias.



WHEN YOU GO TO ADORATION MORE OFTEN

What happens when you go for adoration? You fall in love! Ultimately, you can't help this one! When you spend more time with an open heart in Adoration and just let Christ love you, then you'll fall in love too. That love will define you and allow you to be yourself. "I came that they may have life, life in all its fullness." (John 10:10)

Join us Monday evenings from 6 PM to 8 PM.

Connect



HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE IN OUR CHURCH

Did you know that we have a hearing assistance listening system in our Church? Part of the system includes portable receivers which are available to be borrowed and returned following Mass. They are located in the vesting sacristy in our church. If you are interested in testing the system, please speak to any of our priests or deacons to pick the receiver up before Mass and to return it after Mass.

Serve

SMYLE will be collecting the following items for the Franklin Food Bank after all Masses on November 16th and 17th.



- Cereal
- Rice
- Pasta
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Tuna

SMYLE Members will be at the doors of the church after all Masses.



2024 GIVING TREE

Beginning **Tuesday, November 26th**, our annual Giving Tree will be placed at the front of the Church where it will remain until **Sunday, December 15th**. During this time, you will have the opportunity to grab a gift tag and purchase the items or gift card requested.

The weekends of **December 7th/8th** and **December 14th/15th** are the return dates for all gifts. Please note we will be collecting gifts on these weekends only and all gifts **NEED** to be returned no later than **DECEMBER 15th** to be disbursed in time.

As always, we can use more elves before and after Sunday Masses and **need drivers for deliveries the mornings of December 9th and 16th, after the 8:00 AM Mass**. If you can volunteer a bit of time, please contact: **Joanne Diana** at (732)322-6270 or j-diana@comcast.net. Thank you.

Learn



ST. MATTHIAS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM WORKERS NEEDED



St. Matthias School is in need of workers for our After School Program.

The hours are 2:30PM-6:00PM.

Please email **Mary Lynch**, mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org & **Tesh Barr**, tbarr@stmatthiasnj.org or call **732-828-1402** for more information.



NEW CYBER THREAT

Hello, please be aware of new Cyber threat – Spam bombing. You start receiving a high number of newsletters or contact forms to your email. Then you are contacted pretending to be your IT support or company admin to get on your computer remotely to resolve the issue, then taking over your computer to infect and access all your accounts.

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/	Parish Giv-	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 18 - November 3, 2024	\$112,037.7	\$13,838.50	\$125,876.25	\$29,108.25
Week 19 - November 10, 2024	\$13,807.75	\$25,640.00	\$39,447.75	\$37,628.89
Week 20 - November 17, 2024			\$0.00	\$21,887.75
Week 21 - November 24, 2024			\$0.00	\$18,307.25
			Month-to-date Total	November Total Last Year
All Saints Collection: \$2,037.00			\$165,324.00	\$106,932.14
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of November 30, 2023
			\$571,229.46	\$451,496.67

Stewardship Reflection November 17, 2024 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory." (MARK 13:26)

We will all have that day when we are standing before God and our life is played out like a movie. When this happens and God asks each of us, "What have you done with the gifts that I have given you?" How will you respond? The good news – it's never too late to start living a grateful and generous lifestyle.

Reflexiónese – 17 de noviembre de 2024 Domingo 33° del Tiempo Ordinario

"Entonces verán al Hijo del hombre que vendrá en las nubes con gran poder y gloria." (MARCOS 13:26)

Todos tendremos que colocarnos frente a Dios y nuestra vida será recreada como si fuese una película. Cuando eso suceda y Dios nos pregunte a cada uno de nosotros, "¿Qué has hecho con los dones que te he dado?" ¿Cómo responderás? La buena noticia es que nunca es demasiado tarde para comenzar a vivir un estilo de vida generoso y agradecido.



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SPREAD THE LIGHT!



As our Spread The Light campaign grows closer please know, that there are still a number of trees that can be sponsored. To sponsor a tree, please go to www.stmatthias.net/trees, get a form in the back of church, or see a staff member in the parish office.

We will be in need of help on two Saturdays, November 23rd and the 30th. On the 23rd we will need help taking the trees off of the truck at delivery. The time has not yet been determined.

If you can help that day please email your phone number to Jo-Ann at mrspiag@aol.com, or Pat at fitpro436@gmail.com.

In that way we can call you as soon as we have a delivery time to avoid a wait at the church.

On the 30th, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, we need MANY volunteers to decorate the trees with lights. We start at 9AM and will need at least 40 people.

Lots of you are veterans at this project but we could use some new faces.

Many hands make quick work so please make every effort to join your fellow parishioners as we kick off this most joyous and sacred season as a family of St. Matthias!

Sign up forms are available at exit doors of the church and on our website.

www.stmatthias.net/trees

Connecting to Our Local Community

BLACK CATHOLIC GATHERING NOVEMBER 23, 2024

There will be a Diocesan Black Catholic Gathering on **Saturday, November 23, 2024** at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane in Piscataway from 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon. This is a multi-ethnic committee of passionate Catholics, working to implement the Pastoral Plan of Action recommended by the National Black Catholic Congress last July. **To register visit:** www.diometuchen.org/multiculturalministry
For more information contact: mperez@diometuchen.org or deaconrickfortune@gmail.com

SmyleWithBraces teens with the Franklin Township Mental Health Stigma-Free Council invite you to:

OUR TURN TO TALK
Documentary & Discussion
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER
505 DEMOTT LANE | SOMERSET, NJ

From skyrocketing rates of anxiety and depression to the impacts of racism, social media, and the pandemic, teenagers are putting an end to mental health stigma by telling their own powerful stories of struggles and triumph.

Teens, please join us for "Our Turn to Talk," a movie and candid conversation about critical topics in your life and the lives of those you love.

Storytelling **SAVES** Lives.
DISCUSSION MODERATED BY SHEILA GILLIN, MSS, LCSW

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED. Pre-Registration appreciated, but not required at stigmafreeschool@franklinnj.gov
Name | E-mail | Phone Number

STUDENTS & ADULTS WELCOME. CONTENT IS APPROPRIATE FOR AGES MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ABOVE.

Holiday Support Group for Adult Children of Divorce

The Life-Giving Wounds Ministry for adult children of divorce is sponsoring a hybrid support group consisting of a series of virtual meetings and 2 in-person sessions. The first session will be held at St. Francis Cathedral in Metuchen following the 8:00 a.m. Mass on December 7th. Subsequent meetings will take place each Thursday evening on Zoom from 8 to 9:30 p.m. The final session will take place on February 8th. Cost is \$45 per person for materials.

To register, please visit:

www.diometuchen.org/adult-children-of-divorce

For questions, please contact Molly at:

molly.moltane@gmail.com

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:	Co-Secretaries:	Miles London	Parish Finance Council:	
Co-Chairs:	Didi Molano	Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio	Kester Hector, Chair Finance Council @stmatthias.net	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio
Stephen Busono sbusono@gmail.com	Sheila Tartaglia	Trustees:	Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Joan Pritchard	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
Bill Isele t33sm@aol.com	Teresa Yannotta Joe Percoco	Pearl Scott Marge Richards		

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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November 19	December 3
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