



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, **lguillen**
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 19, 2023
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



TODAY'S
Second
Collection
is for the
Works of
Mercy
Campaign



Happy Thanksgiving

I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart;
I will tell of all Your wonders.

Psalm 9:1

Today We Celebrate



WORLD DAY
OF THE POOR

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 19, 2023 Works of Mercy Campaign

Christmas Tree Sponsorship DEADLINE

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 12:00PM Mass Church

Monday, Nov 20, 2023 St. Felix of Valois, Co-Founder

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

Tuesday, Nov 21, 2023 Presentation of Mary

8:00AM Mass Church
 2:00PM Bereavement Support Grp. de Porres Rm
 7:00PM Pastoral Council Mtg. de Porres Rm
 7:30PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal Church

Wednesday, Nov 22, 2023 St. Cecilia, Martyr

SMS Staff Spirituality Day-No School

8:00AM Mass, St. Joseph Novena Church
 9:30AM Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit de Porres Rm

Thursday, Nov 23, 2023 St. Clement I, Pope & Martyr

Thanksgiving Day—School & Parish Office Closed

8:00AM Mass Church

Friday, Nov 24, 2023 Andrew Dung Loc & Co., Martyrs of Viet Nam

No School & Parish Office Closed

8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, Nov 25, 2023 Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr

3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Vigil Mass –Christ the King Church

Sunday, Nov 26, Solemnity of our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass –Sign Language Interpreter Church
 12:00PM Mass Church



Bulletin Article Requests:

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



Dear Friends,

Today is the **World Day of the Poor**. It was established by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter, *Misericordia et Misera*, issued on 20 November 2016 to celebrate the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. In preparation for this year’s celebration of the World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis had urged everyone to work toward providing free healthcare, medical examinations, vaccinations, and bill payment assistance to those in need.

The theme for the World Day of the Poor 2023 is a passage from the Book of Tobit: "Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor." The Pope stressed that “a great river of poverty is traversing our cities and swelling to the point of overflowing; it seems to overwhelm us, so great are the needs of our brothers and sisters who plead for our help, support and solidarity.” This is literally true in our own area as our St. Vincent De Paul Society is overwhelmed with requests for help in the recent months. Helping those in need is something that we here at St. Matthias, have been passionate about through the ministry of St. Vincent DePaul Society, and we can be happy that we are helping as many deserving individuals and families as we can.

Last Sunday we revived the **Children’s Liturgy of the Word**, which we had suspended during Covid. The 10 am Mass was packed with families with children and it was a delight to see some seventy children having a separate and wonderful time of understanding the Sunday Scriptures. They were given an increased opportunity to come to a full, active and conscious participation in the Liturgy of the Word according to their spiritual capacity.

I am sure that we all agree that helping our children appreciate and benefit from the Sunday worship is very important. Taking them away from the adults during the Mass facilitates sharing the message of the gospel with them at their level and encourages them to form a loving and generous response to the Word of God. This way of doing Mass helps children to learn about their faith in a positive and enjoyable manner. This encourages parents to bring the children to Mass and to come as a family regularly. I am very grateful to Cecelia Regan who leads this ministry, with the help of Dee Nann, Jody Martielli, Maria Fonseca, Melanie McNamara, Marianne Viaud and Fran Johnson.

We are entering the Thanksgiving Week. We all take a pause from our regular work and activities to celebrate this quintessential American holiday. But, the celebration will be meaningless unless we become people of gratitude. Thanksgiving Day is to remind us that our expression of thanks to God and to others must become a habit with us on a daily basis. Please come for the Thanksgiving Day Mass here in our church at 8 am so that we can begin this day with the Eucharist, which literally means thanksgiving. “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Have a wonderful and happy Thanksgiving time with your family and friends.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-7; Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b, 15; Lk 19:11-28

Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44

Thanksgiving Day, Suggested: Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-11; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11-12; Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19; Lk 20:27-40

Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

Mass Intentions for the Week

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
Monday, Nov 20	8:00AM	In Thanksgiving for Isabel Mallare, by Daughter
Tuesday, Nov 21	8:00AM	Marie Speak, by Vinnie, Ethel & Mary
Wednesday, Nov 22	8:00AM	Susan & James Shinnors, by Mary
Thursday, Nov 23	8:00AM	Thomas Juzwiak, by Wife & Children
Friday, Nov 24	8:00AM	Flora P. Miller, by LSNJ, SSI Projects
Saturday, Nov 25	5:00PM	Gilberto Gavilanes, by Myrna Silvio
Sunday, Nov 26	8:00AM	In Loving Memory of Hector Concha Moreno, by The Moreno Family
	10:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Patrick Siwa, by Karen Francis
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for those who are sick...

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

New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.

Carolyn Banghart
Samantha Bellouny

Tara Capatosto
Elizabeth Card
Kyle Davidson
Lisa DeFeo
Zenon DeGuzman
Marlene DiMaggio
Hattie Evans
Heinley Gaspard
Claudia Gemgnani
Emma Gergely
Gerry & Jack Gernert
Marie Godet
Shelly Greene

Linda Hartong
Marilyn Horvath
Amanda Isele
Baby Elaine Isele
Renée Jolly
Bill Kelleher
Betsy Kondrat
Armando D. Liban
Mary Lou Littrakis
John Littrakis
Denis Loboda
Aries Magali
Al Maglio
Christine Matthews
Ann McElwee

Jessica Marie Merrick
Ivette Michel
Gail Miranda
Robert Pellegrino
Robert Pietrowiak
Randolff Pinard
Valerie Polci
Kim Price
Denise Pultro
Doris Regan
Gabriel Rivera
Arina Robinson
Maria Schwenzer
Amy Shepp
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF

Sr. Bernadine Marie
Stemnock
Anita Vance
Eileen Weber
Nancy Whelan
Ginette Zamor
Anne Zando

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

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Butterball help line operators share:

A gentleman called Butterball's Thanksgiving Turkey Talk-Line to tell the operator he cut his turkey in half with a chain saw and wanted to know if the oil from the chain would adversely affect the turkey. 😊

A disappointed woman called wondering why her turkey had no breast meat. After a conversation with a Talk-Line operator, it became apparent that the woman's turkey was lying on the table upside down. 😊

When a Talk-Line staffer asked a caller what state her turkey was in (meaning how thawed was it) the caller responded with, "Florida." 😊

A Kentucky mother had followed Butterball's instructions for roasting a turkey, and everything seemed to be going smoothly. The bird came out of the oven golden-brown, but there was a strange, bright red color when she started to carve it. Turns out her son had helped her "season" the

turkey with Legos, and she wanted to know if it was still safe to eat. 😊

One caller had always cut the legs off the turkey before putting it in the oven thinking that was how you had to cook a turkey. She later learned that the only reason her mom had been doing that was because their oven had been so small that that was the only way to get the bird into the oven! 😊

The turkey with a high fever! When I think of "Turkey Day," I am reminded of the story of the little boy who saw his mother putting a thermometer in the turkey. He said, "If it is that sick, I don't want any!"

Thanksgiving is an emotional time. People travel thousands of miles to be with people they see only once a year. And then discover once a year is way too often. 😊

"Vegetables are a must for Thanksgiving. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread, and pumpkin pie." 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

Even with natural talent, it takes work to develop it. Help your child identify one talent this week, and one way they can improve it. Often this includes the "P" word - Practice. (Mt 25: 14-30)

Marriage Tune-Up

"When one finds a worthy wife [husband] their value is far beyond pearls [money]." (Proverbs 31:10) Although this scripture traditionally refers to wives, it works equally well for husbands. Pause for a moment and ponder the worth of your beloved.



Stewardship Quote of the Week

"I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God's failure to supply my need when first I had given for the furtherance of His work. He has never failed in His promise, so I cannot fail in my service to Him."

William Carey



Sharing the Best You Have!

Mother Theresa of Calcutta was summoned to the court on the charges of converting children to the Catholic faith. When she stood in the dock, the judge asked her if the charges were true. She asked for a baby to be given to her. She held the baby in her arms and said, "This child I picked up from the dust bin; I don't know to what religion this child belongs or what language it speaks... I give this child my love, my time, my care, my food... but the best thing that I have in my life is the faith in Jesus Christ. Can't I give this child the best I have in my life?"

The case was dismissed in favor of Mother Theresa.

Let us be thankful and let us learn to express our thanks daily.

- To God for His innumerable blessings, providential care and protection and for the unconditional pardon given to us for our daily sins and failures.
- b) To our parents – living and dead – for the gift of life and Christian training and the good examples they gave us.
- c) To our relatives and friends for their loving support and timely help and encouragement.
- d) To our pastors, teachers, doctors, soldiers, police and government officers for the sincere service they render us.

A General's New Mission

The parable of the talents: **For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.**

Matthew 25: 14-30

“Green Berets don't get post-traumatic stress disorder. Especially generals. You don't seek help. You tough it out.” That's what Brigadier General Donald Bolduc thought. But shortly after returning from eight combat tours, General Bolduc began suffering from severe headaches. He was moody, he couldn't sleep - even his balance was off. It took 12 years from his first battlefield trauma for him to seek help. But at his wife's urging, he did the unthinkable in the hyper macho culture of the military: he sought medical help. He learned that he not only suffered from PTSD, but he also had a bullet-size spot on his brain, an injury probably suffered in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan in 2005 that the general walked away from.

After three years of treatment, General Bolduc is doing well. He is now commander of American Special Operations Forces, battling terrorist groups in Africa - and he has become an evangelist for letting soldiers in his command know that it's all right to get help for mental health problems and brain injuries. He makes it clear to his soldiers - who are stationed in some of the world's most dangerous places - that seeking help will not hurt their careers. To their CO, PTSD is the same as a broken arm. "The powerful thing is that I can use myself as an example," the 54-year-old general says. "And thank goodness not everybody can do that. But I'm able to do it, so that has some sort of . . . credibility to it."

General Bolduc's initiative is helping bring an end of the stigma attached to seeking help for PTSD. Other high-ranking officers are coming forward, as well, talking openly about their struggles with post-combat stress and brain injuries. The Defense Department estimates that a quarter

of all injuries suffered by U.S. military in Afghanistan and Iraq were brain injuries and as many as 20 percent of veterans of those two conflicts experience post-traumatic stress disorder. General Bolduc tells his personal story every time a new soldier comes into his command and urges anyone experiencing the same kind of symptoms to get help.

Recently, General Bolduc was visiting a team under his command who had just returned from battle. He asked how many of them had been close to blasts, bombs and mortar shells. Everyone raised a hand. The he asked how many had sought treatment. No one's hand went up. General Bolduc told them his own story. All of them men decided to get exams. Doctors found a tumor in one soldier's brain, and he was flown to Walter Reed in Washington for treatment.

An Army general uses his experience and position to confront a serious medical and psychological issue affecting thousands of soldiers. He devotes the "talents" entrusted to him - leadership, experience, courage - to realize a harvest of hope and healing, to bring light to those lost in a darkness of illness and fear. The parable of the talents focuses on the critical question of not what we possess in terms of talent and ability but on our willingness to use those skills to make the Kingdom of God a reality here and now. We may have the skills to lead men and women into combat - or we may be able to bring healing to others by our simple but under-appreciated ability to listen to them in their pain. We may have the opportunity to influence the lives of many people - or we may be a good mom or dad to our own children; we may have the skills to manage big organizations that accomplish much good - or we may take a regular turn at the local soup kitchen. The Spirit of God prompts us to use whatever our "talents" for the common good, for bringing healing to the broken and hope to the struggling, for making the peace of Kingdom of God a reality in our time and place.

Give it your best Shot!

Tom Dempsey was born without a right hand and with only half a right foot. Tom went to school and played football. He even played on a junior college team in California. In time he began to place kick for the team. He got so good that eventually he was signed by the New Orleans Saints. On November 8, 1970, the Saints were trailing Detroit 17-16 with two seconds to go. They had the ball on the Detroit 45 yard line. New Orleans coach J. D. Roberts tapped Tom on the shoulder and said, "Go out there and give it your best shot!" The holder set the ball down eight yards behind the line of

scrimmage, instead of seven, to give Dempsey a split second more time to get the ball off. This put the ball 63 yards from the uprights. The rest of the story is history. Tom's half a right foot made perfect contact. Tom later said in Newsweek Magazine: "I couldn't follow the ball that far. But I saw the official's arms go up, and I can't describe how great I felt." The Saints won the game 19-17, and Dempsey shattered the NFL field goal record by seven yards. What does this story have to do with today's Scripture readings - especially Jesus' point in today's Gospel?

Reflect

Simple things for which to be Thankful

"I am thankful for the mess to clean up after a party because it means I am blessed with friends.

I am thankful for the taxes I pay because it means that I am employed.

I am thankful for the clothes that fit a little too snugly because it means I have had enough to eat.

I am thankful for my shadow that watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine.

I am thankful for a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.

I am thankful for all the complaining I do about the government because it means we have freedom of speech.

I am thankful for the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking.

I am thankful for my big heating bill because it means I am warm.

I am thankful for the lady behind me in Church who sings off-key because it means I can hear.

I am thankful for the piles of laundry and ironing because it means my loved ones are nearby.

I am thankful for weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been productive.

I am thankful for the alarm that goes off early in the morning because it means I am alive."



"Do you want a chance to change the World?"

Steven Jobs is the man who founded the enormously successful company called Apple Computer. Jobs decided that Mr.

John Sculley was the man he needed to help him fulfill his dream of building a completely different kind of computer company, one which would make computers available to every person in the world. However, Mr. Sculley was comfortably and safely entrenched as president of the Pepsico Corporation, the makers of the soft drink Pepsi. In this position, John Sculley had obtained everything that a man could want: power, prestige, public recognition, an enormous salary and a secure future. The thought of a career change requiring a move to the West Coast frightened him. He was concerned about losing pensions and deferred compensation and the adjustment to living in California, in other words, "the pragmatic stuff that preoccupies the middle-aged." He says, "I was overly concerned with what would happen next week and the week after next." John Sculley knew that he was safe and happy at Pepsico. But he also

knew that he had grown to dislike the competitive nature of the business. He also knew how bored he was. Steven Jobs at Apple Computer sensed this. And so he finally confronted his new friend with this pointed question.

He said to John, **"Do you want to spend the rest of your life selling sugared water or do you want a chance to change the world?"**

That question penetrated deep into the heart and mind of John Sculley. It changed the course of his life. He therefore went to Apple Computer and helped it to grow into one of the most successful corporations in the world. Mr. Sculley's life was changed because he took the risk and decided to invest in himself and others, and to grow. [John Sculley, *Odyssey* (New York: Harper & Row, 1987), p. 90.]

Nine Lepers or one Leper?

There are basically two types of people in our world: the grateful and the ungrateful. The Gospel for Thanksgiving tells the story of the ten lepers whom Jesus healed (Luke 17: 11-19). Only one of them, a Samaritan - a Jew despised and held unclean for being in schism - returned to give Him thanks. The other nine (who were "real" Jews), apparently considered their healing as something they had a right to, whereas the Samaritan took it as an undeserved gift from God. This Gospel reminds us that even God desires our gratitude. *"Where are the other nine?"* Jesus asked with pain. (Confer also Is 1:3-5.)

That is why St. Paul admonishes us, **"Always be thankful"** (Col 3:17). It is a Christian's duty as well as a privilege to be grateful for the blessings of God (Deuteronomy 8:10; Psalm 107:19, 21; Colossians 1:12-14; Philippians 1:3). *"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever"* (1 Chronicles 16:34). (Refer to Psalm 107:1, John 11:41, Eph. 5:20, and Col. 3:17 for Biblical prayers and expressions of thanksgiving.)

Gathered around the altar celebrating the Eucharist, we find that our expression of thanks becomes part of the great Thanksgiving Prayer of Christ which joins the mighty chorus of all God's people. We should give thanks for this parish community in which we gather together. It is in this community that we meet Christ in the Breaking of the Bread and receive the Sacraments that nourish and strengthen us along the way. Hence, *"let us give thanks to the Lord our God. For it is right to give God thanks and praise!"*

Pray



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE
MANY WHO SPEND
SOME QUIET TIME WITH
THE
EUCCHARISTIC LORD.
OUR NEXT ADORATION
WILL BE THIS
MONDAY EVENING,
NOVEMBER 20, 2023
FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

Diocesan Cemeteries Announce Pre-planning Promotion ENDS TODAY

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

*** CORRECTION**

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 - \$100,847.*

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





“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 Venerable Mother Mary Lange.



Venerable Mother Mary Lange – Born as Elizabeth around 1794 in Santiago de Cuba, she lived in a primarily French-speaking community. Early the 1800s she left Cuba and settled in the United States in Baltimore. She was a courageous, loving, and deeply spiritual woman. There was no free public education for African American children in Maryland until 1868, so she responded to that need by opening a school for the children in her home in the Fells Point area of the city. Providence intervened through the person of Reverend James Hector Joubert, SS, who was encouraged by James Whitfield, Archbishop of Baltimore to present Elizabeth Lange with the idea to found a religious congregation for the education of African American girls. Father Joubert provided direction, solicited financial assistance, and encouraged other “women of color” to join this first congregation of African American women religious in the history of the Catholic Church. Elizabeth, joyfully accepting the idea. She and three other women professed their vows and became the Oblate Sisters of Providence July 2nd, 1829. As foundress and first superior general, she took the religious name Mary. William Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, opened a formal investigation into her life and works of charity in 1991. The Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine for the Causes of Saints approved the cause of her sainthood in 2004, and Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore celebrated a canonical celebration at the transfer and blessing of her remains. The faithful venerated the relics before they were sealed in a reliquary and sarcophagus in the chapel’s oratory. Pope Francis named her as Venerable on June 22, 2023.



Time to Volunteer for our “Treemendous” Spread the Light Event!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 9AM

Our trees will arrive on Saturday, November 18 and we have a group of people to unload the truck behind the school. The real work will be on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25** when we need your help 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! Please join your fellow parishioners to make little work for many hands. We need at least 25 to 30 people to light the trees. Please bring scissors and wear gardening gloves. We work in pairs so bring a friend if you can. **Work begins at 9 AM** and with a good group, we will be finished by noon!

Any questions, call Jo-Ann Piagentini, 908-256-5173.

SEE YOU THERE!

St. Matthias Giving Tree

Beginning Tuesday, November 28th, our Giving Tree will be at the front of the Church and remain there **until Sunday, December 17th** . During this time you will have the opportunity to take ornaments and purchase some or all of the items listed. Once again, there will be a link on the St. Matthias Website for those who prefer to drop ship their gifts.

We will be collecting and sorting gifts the weekends of December 9th /10th and December 16th /17th . Please note will we be collecting gifts on these weekends only and ALL GIFTS ARE DUE BACK ON DECEMBER 17th .

We can always use more elves and need drivers for deliveries the mornings of **December 11th and 18th , after the 8:00 AM Mass**. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Joanne Diana at (732)322-6270, or j-diana@comcast.net.

St. Matthias parishioners and friends have always been generous in the past—please keep up our tradition – it means a lot to so many people in need. Thank you!



Learn

SAINT MATTHIAS SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER

Responsibilities include processing invoices, purchasing, recording payments, and performing clerical duties. Previous experience using the FACTS Tuition Management system is a plus.



Please send your resume to: mpburke-grospin@stmattias.net.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

PREK3 - 8TH GRADE

Please send your resume to: mlynch@stmattias.net
<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/>



Connecting to Our Local Community



Pregnancy Aid Center Needs Your Help

Pregnancy Aid Center (59 Thompson Street, Raritan; 908 526-8121) is in serious need of toddler coats and winter clothing, diapers, wipes, shampoo, toys and baby equipment to help local needy moms and children. It is a great way to give new life to your children's outgrown items. **Drop off is Wednesday from 12 pm to 2 pm:** the center is open from 11am to 2 pm on Mondays; 10am to 12:30 pm on Tuesdays, and 10am to 12 pm and 4 pm to 5:30pm on Thursdays.



Choosing the Better Part: A Woman's Retreat

Tuesday, December 12, 9:30-11:30 am Hybrid

Choosing the Better Part: A Women's Advent Retreat

Are you a Martha or a Mary? Together, they will help us figure out how to choose the better part, opening our hearts to God's presence even as the holiday season looms. (\$20-\$30 as you are able)

Presenter: Christine Marie Eberle

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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	\$14,173.50	\$23,455.39	\$37,628.89	\$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
			\$66,737.14	\$97,691.75
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of
			\$1,874,241.75	\$1,871,586.06

Stewardship Reflection November 19, 2023 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you have been faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities.” - MATTHEW 25:21

God calls us to nurture and develop the gifts He has given us and then generously return a portion with increase. He doesn't want us to waste or hoard the gifts He has given us. He expects us to grow our gifts, to use them wisely, and to be generous with them. Unfortunately, many of us are not generous in proportion to all that God has given us. God asks us to be generous with all our gifts, especially the one that means the most to you.

Reflexiónese 19 de noviembre 2023 Domingo 33º del Tiempo Ordinario

“Bien hecho, mi buen y fiel sirviente. Porque has sido fiel en lo poco, te daré grandes responsabilidades.” - MATEO 25:21

Dios nos llama a cultivar y desarrollar los dones que Él nos ha dado, y entonces devolver generosamente una parte con aumento. Él no quiere que desperdiciemos o acumulemos los dones que nos ha dado. Él espera que hagamos crecer nuestros dones, que los utilicemos sabiamente, y que seamos generosos con ellos. Lamentablemente, muchos de nosotros no somos generosos en proporción a todo lo que Dios nos ha dado. Dios nos pide que seamos generosos con todos nuestros dones, especialmente con aquellos que significan más para nosotros.



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-Mellini Barry Dusault Gwen Orlowski	Audrey Francis Joan Pritchard Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
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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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