



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, **lg Guillen**
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 24, 2024

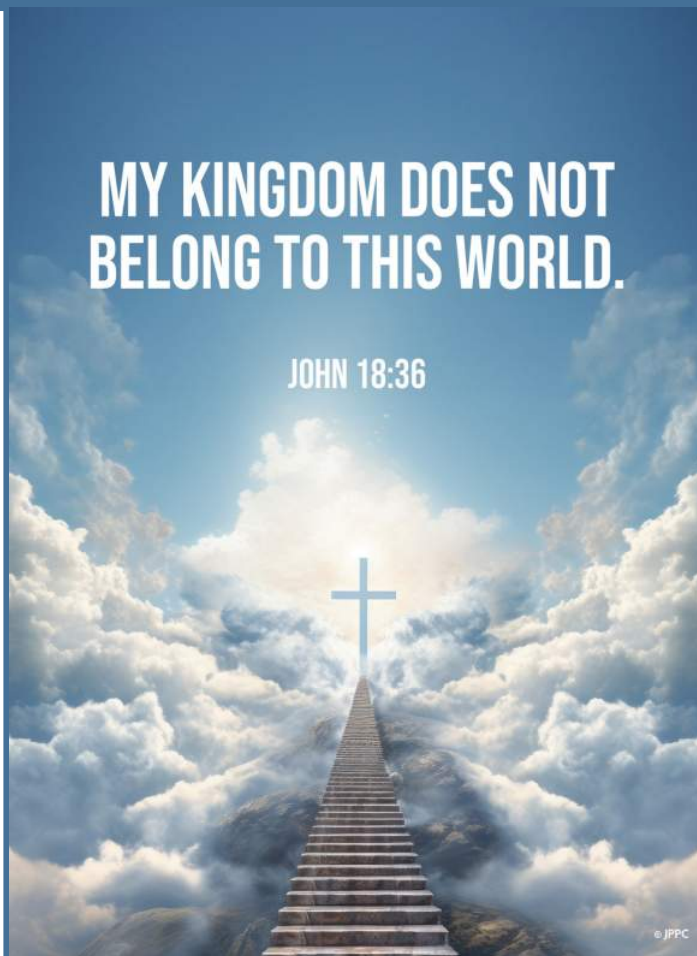
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



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

MY KINGDOM DOES NOT BELONG TO THIS WORLD.

JOHN 18:36



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SPREAD THE LIGHT!

Please see page 9 for details .

This Week @ St. Matthias

A Message From Our Pastor

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

The Church is open for individual prayer
Mon-Fri: 7:30 am to dusk, Sat: 9 am to 6pm, and
Sun: 7:30 am to 1 pm, unless another service is taking place.

Sunday, 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

Monday, Nov 25, 2024 **Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr**

8:00AM	Mass, Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
8:45AM	Giving Tree Set-Up after Mass	Church
6:00PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00PM	Cub Scout Pack 195 Meeting	Cafeteria

Tuesday, Nov 26, 2024 **St. John Berchmans, Patron of Altar Servers**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	Cub Scout Pie Pickup	Cafeteria

Wednesday, Nov 27, 2024 **St. James Intercisus, Persian Saint**

SMS Dismissal 12:15PM

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

Thursday, Nov 28, 2024 **St. Catherine Laboure, Marian Visionary**

Thanksgiving Day School & Parish Office closed

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Friday, Nov 29, 2024 **St. Francis Anthony Fasani**

Native American Heritage Day

SMS & Parish Office Closed

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, Nov 30, 2024 **St. Andrew, Apostle**

All Day, Trees Decorated w/lights (volunteers)

1:00PM	Family Matters	de Porres Rm
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

Sunday, Dec 1, 2024

1st Sunday of Advent

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Mtg.	John XXIII 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.

Bulletin deadlines for this holiday season up to mid-January are accelerated by the Publishers. Hence matters to be published must be submitted 10 days earlier than the usual time.

Dear Friends,

We are entering the last week in “Ordinary Time” beginning with the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King. It is the signal that the Church’s calendar year is coming to an end and that we are about to start the new year! Thus, the First Sunday of the New Year in the Liturgical Calendar is next Sunday as we begin the season of Advent! It is good for us to know that today’s feast was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as an antidote to secularism, a way of life which leaves God out of people’s thinking and living and organizes life as if God did not exist. The feast is intended to proclaim in a striking and effective manner Christ’s royalty over individuals, families, society, governments, and nations. May we all recognize this truth and continue our efforts to honor Jesus by living his values in our lives.

Our St. Matthias church door near the Tabernacle has been closed for over a year as part of the Eucharistic Revival. As we know, it was a reminder to keep the area around the Tabernacle as a sacred space. The innocent chitchats and socializing in that area have been reduced significantly. There is a greater sense of reverence shown to the Blessed Sacrament by those who pass by the Tabernacle. This Solemn Feast of Christ the King is an auspicious day to reopen that door so that we can enter/exit that way as before, while being more conscious of the need to continue the silence and reverence around the Tabernacle.

We are also entering the Thanksgiving Week! Some have asked me: *Is Thanksgiving a religious holiday or a secular celebration?* Although the secularism of our present culture may have turned the focus more to indulging in food, fun, games, and family gathering, we must not forget the history and the religious significance of this quintessential American holiday. It is definitely a religious holiday rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition of our country. So we need to pause to thank God. One lively song that has remained in my memory from my missionary seminary life is titled: Count Your Blessings, Name Them One by One. It has these wonderful and uplifting words in one verse:

Are you ever burdened with a load of care/Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?

Count your many blessings, ev’ry doubt will fly/And you will be singing as the days go by.

Yes, we need to really take the time to be thankful for what we have been blessed with, especially for those simple things that we take for granted.

I invite you to begin the Thanksgiving Day by attending our special Mass to thank our loving God who is the source of all blessings. Welcome to join the 8 am Thanksgiving Day Mass this Thursday.

It is wonderful that many families have the tradition of not only saying a Thanksgiving prayer before meals, but also of going around the table and having each person say what they’re thankful for. In my observation, I’ve found that people most often neglect to mention material things. Instead, they say “family” or “friends.” This could be because Thanksgiving teaches us to appreciate the things we can’t buy — the important aspects of life. Yes, St. Paul is right: *“We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater..”* (2 Thessalonians 1:3)

Happy Thanksgiving!

Your brother in Christ

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5 Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday Rv 14:14-19 Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13 Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday Rv 15:1-4 Ps 98:1, 2-3AB, 7-8, 9 Lk 21:12-19

Thursday Sir 50:22-24 Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11 1 Cor 1:3-9 Lk 17:11-19

Friday Rv 20:1-4, 11-21:2 Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6A and 8A Lk 21:29-33

Saturday Rom 10:9-18 Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 Mt 4:18-22

Sunday Jer 33:14-16 Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 Lk 21:25-28, 34-36



Mass Intentions for the Week

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
Mon., November 25	8:00AM	Thomas Juzwiak, by Wife & children
Tues., November 26	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Patrick, by Karen
	8:00AM	Milagros Alcantara, by Agnes
Wednesday, Nov 28	8:00AM	Mercedes B.Amparo, by JAS Class of 65
Thurs., November 28	8:00AM	Al Maglio, by Scott & Barbara Loeffler
Fri., November 29	8:00AM	Gilberto Gavilanes, by The Gavilanes Family
Sat., November 30	5:00PM	Joseph & Lucy Lyons, by Bill & Pat Kelleher
Sun., December 1	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Thomas G. Riley, by The Varona Family
	12:00PM	Christine Retz, by The Cesario 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	Kathy Langenbacher	Sotelo	Sr. Bernadine Marie
Edgar Banaag	Emma Gergely	Rose Larangeira	Sarah Braun Morini	Stemnock
Carolyn Banghart	Claude Godet	Linda Leone	Robert Pellegrino	Richard Sury
Ghislaine Baron	Marie Godet	Henrietta Lesiak	Robert Pierro	Jacqueline Taylor
Samantha Bellouny	Fr. Ben Gomez OMI	John Litakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Anita Vance
Carmen Bender	Shelly Greene	Mary Lou Litakis	Randolff Pinard	Minda Villarica
Mary Bostrom	Linda Hartong	Aries Magali	Valerie Polci	Eileen Weber
Tara Capatosto	Jeff Hentz	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Kim Price	Nancy Whelan
Rustico Castellano	Marilyn Horvath	Susan, King & Tosh	Frank Rispoli	GINETTE Zamor
Lisa DeFeo	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Manansala	Gabriel Rivera	Celia M. Zelinski
Sanora Doyen	Nicole Cherill Hynes	Colleen Maniscalco	Bob Rotz	Anne Zando
Andrea Dubuisson	Marilyn Jensen	Alexandra Marquez	Marisa Ruppel	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
Derowitsch Family	Jean Alix Jolly	Christine Matthews	Maria Schwenzer	
Hattie Evans	Marie Claude Jolly	Ann McElwee	Amy Shepp	
Margaret Ann Cichon	Donna Kahora	Jessica Marie Merrick	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	
Ford	Betsy Kondrat	Gail Miranda	Timothy Siclari	
Sharon Gadomski	Kim Krikorian	Menchie Molano-	Catherine Steele	

Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

Sau Ling Yung,

John Pfeiffer,

Richard Perrotta

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



King Louis XI of France was a firm believer in astrology and yet he was somewhat uneasy when an astrologer accurately predicted the death of a lady at court. He felt the astrologer would be better off dead, so Louis called him to his apartments where his servants were ordered to throw him out the window once given the signal. First, however, Louis asked the man a question, "You claim to understand astrology and to know the fate of others, so tell me what your fate will be and how long you have to live." The astrologer replied, "I shall die just three days before Your Majesty." This so unnerved the king that he decided to let the astrologer live. 😊

Queen Victoria, who ruled England and Ireland for almost 40 years, lay dying. A member of the royal household mused to Edward, Prince of Wales, "I wonder if she will be happy in heaven?" Edward matter-of-factly replied, "I don't know. There, she will have to walk behind the angels, and she won't like that!" 😊

What's the best way to fix a broken pumpkin?

Use a pumpkin patch. 😊

What did the autumn leaf say to the tree?

"I'm falling for you." 😊

What do you call turkey on the run? Fast food 😊

What is the most musical part of a turkey? The drumstick 😊

Why didn't the cook season the turkey?

She ran out of thyme 😊

I wonder how long I'll be at Thanksgiving dinner before my mom asks me to fix her computer 😊

I love my friends. I love my family. But in some ways they all pale in comparison to the Day-After-Thanksgiving-Dinner sandwich. 😊

"I'm giving thanks that we don't have to go through this for another year 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

Thanksgiving dinner is a great opportunity to speak about acknowledging our blessings. Ask each family member to find one bible verse about thanksgiving and use that for your prayer before dinner.

Marriage Tune-Up



What does it mean to be a king, or queen, or president, or indeed anyone with power? Jesus reminds us, "My kingdom does not belong to this world." (John 18:36) Look at your spouse today and see beyond the power struggles of who is in charge or most right. Recommit to sacrificing your life for your beloved.

A Pearl of Wisdom For This Week

All things in life are temporary. If it's going well, enjoy it, that won't last long. If it's going badly, don't worry, that won't last long either.

INSPIRATIONAL THANKSGIVING QUOTES

"So once in every year we throng upon a day apart, to praise the Lord with feast and song In thankfulness of heart."
- Arthur Guiterman

"I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual." - Henry David Thoreau

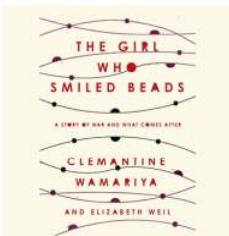
"We would worry less if we praised more. Thanksgiving is the enemy of discontent and dissatisfaction." - Harry Ironside

"There should be a parallel between our supplications and our thanksgivings. We ought not to leap in prayer, and limp in praise." - Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"Perhaps it takes a purer faith to praise God for unrealized blessings than for those we once enjoyed or those we enjoy now." - A.W. Tozer

"I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder."
- G.K. Chesterton

"The Christian who walks with the Lord and keeps constant communion with Him will see many reason for rejoicing and thanksgiving all day long." - Warren W. Wiersbe



“The Girl Who Smiled Beads”
“My kingdom does not belong to this world . . . “Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” John 18: 33b-37

When she was six years old, Clemantine Wamariya, her sister, brother and parents fled the genocide in their native

Rwanda in 1994. Barely escaping the massacre, Clemantine and her sister Claire were separated from their parents; the two sisters spent the next six years migrating through seven African countries, searching for safety. They endured perpetual hunger, constant imprisonment and abuse, and witnessed unimaginable cruelty — but they also experienced moments of unexpected kindness and grace. The family eventually reunited and was granted refugee status in the United States, and a new struggle began for Clemantine and her family as they acclimated to their new home and culture. Clemantine, now a Yale graduate and human rights advocate, tells her family’s powerful story in her new book **The Girl Who Smiled Beads.**

Clemantine recounts learning a critical lesson from her mother that enabled her to survive: sharing. “My mother used to test us. ‘Get an orange,’ she’d say at the end of a meal, and then she’d cut the orange into pieces and watch us. There might be two pieces, there might be four pieces, there might be six pieces. She wanted to be sure we didn’t take more than our share. “The exercise was illogical. We had trees full of oranges in the garden. We could each have had our own orange. But if my mother didn’t cut that one orange into enough pieces for everyone to share, the correct answer to the test was to cut into more. “My mother was radical, in her actions if not her words. Sharing was her philosophy, an ideology to counter what she considered to be emotionally stingy notions of possession or entitlement. We were never to think, *This orange is mine. I’m giving you what’s mine.* We were to think, *This orange is ours. We’re sharing what’s ours.*

“I think back to this often in trying to make sense of the world — how there are people who have so much and people who have so little, and how I fit in with both of them. Often I find myself trying to bridge the two worlds, to show people, either the people with so much or the people with so little, that everything is yours and everything is not yours. I want to make people understand that boxing ourselves into tiny cubbies based on class, race, ethnicity, religion — anything, really — comes from a poverty of mind, a poverty of imagination . . . “The only road to equality — a sense of common humanity [and] peace — is sharing, my mother’s orange.” **Clemantine’s mother’s orange reveals to her daughters the kingdom of God. That “kingdom” exists, not in nations and tribes, but within human hearts; the source of its power is not military or economic but its**

commitment to justice, generosity and peace. As Clemantine’s mother realizes in the horror engulfing her family’s homeland, Christ’s reign is realized only in our embracing a vision of humankind as a family of individual souls made in the image of God, a vision of one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, a vision of the world centered in the spirit of hope and compassion taught by Christ — or as Clemantine’s mother would say, a world in which “everything is ours and everything is not ours.” **On this solemnity of Christ the King, may we embrace the vision of the shared orange: to see all of us connected to one another by the love of God, thus making us all part of the reign of God’s Christ.**

Desperate Deaths of Autocrats!

The death of Josef Stalin (1879-1953) the Communist dictator was described by his daughter as difficult and terrible. Silenced by a stroke shortly before he died, Stalin’s “last words” were more visible than audible. *Newsweek* magazine quoted Svetlana Stalin who said, “At what seemed the very last moment, he cast a glance over everyone in the room. It was a terrible glance, insane, angry and full of fear of death. With one final menacing gesture, he lifted his left hand as if he were bringing down a curse on us all.” Philip III of Spain (1578-1621), who proved himself to be an unfit king, indifferent to the plight of his people, breathed his last wishing, “Would to God that I had never reigned. What does all my glory profit but that I have so much the more torment in my death?” Charles IX, who in 1572 had ordered the St. Bartholomew’s Day massacre of the Huguenots throughout France met death with despair, “What blood! What murders! I am lost forever. I know it.” When she lay dying, Queen Elizabeth I of England (1533-1603) was reported to have said she would give, “All my possessions for a moment of time.”

Today’s Gospel challenge us to compare with these royal deaths Christ the King’s death on the cross, offering his life to God his Father in all serenity and elegance.

😊 Funny Thank You Quotes 😊

When we were children we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs? (G.K. Chesterton (5218-1936), English writer & journalist)

If you can't be content with what you have received, be thankful for what you have escaped. (Author unknown)

“I want to say thank you to all the people who walked into my life and made it outstanding, and all the people who walked out of my life and made it fantastic.” (Author unknown) *Some people are always grumbling because roses have thorns; I am thankful that thorns have roses.* (Alphonse Karr (5242-1890), French critic and novelist)

Jesus Clarifies His Kingship!

The Jews accused Jesus of blasphemy for claiming to be God, and they wanted him to die by the most shameful and painful type of Roman execution. Hence, they brought Jesus before Pilate the Roman governor and accused Jesus of causing sedition against the Roman Empire and Caesar. *"We found this man inciting our people to revolt, opposing payment of the tribute to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ, a king"* (Lk. 67:6). Today's Gospel presents the first part of the trial conducted by Pilate who questions Jesus about his kingship. In his dialogue with Pilate, Jesus implies that Pilate does not understand the spiritual or transcendent nature of Jesus' kingship (*"My Kingdom does not belong to this world"*). Jesus admits that he is a king but declares that his Kingdom is not of this world. Neither his present nor his future reign operates according to the world's criteria of power and dominance. Jesus' Kingdom, the reign of God, is based on the beatitudes, and he rules through service rather than through domination. His authority is rooted in truth, not in physical force. Jesus also claims that he has come to bear witness to the truth about a larger and eternal Kingdom. Jesus has come to bear witness to the truth: about God and His love, about us and about whom we are called to be.

Superior Race...?

The black man standing in the arena was an affront to Der Fuehrer's authority. The scene was the 1936 Olympic Games held in Berlin, Germany. The black man was Jesse Owens of The Ohio State University representing the U.S.A. He was aptly called "the fastest human alive." Der Fuehrer was Chancellor Adolf Hitler who had recently risen to power championing an arrogant theory that his "Aryan race" of "supermen" would conquer the world. In implementing his theory, he began systematically to stamp out the Jews in a bitter expression of prejudice and discrimination. Hitler also publicly denounced Blacks (Negroes as they were called then), as an inferior race. Jesse Owens, in his estimation, should not even be present at the Games. Jesse Owens was not only present, but he went on to win four gold medals in the 100-meter-dash, the 200-meter-dash, the broad jump and the 400-meter relay race. He demolished Hitler's claim that the Aryan race was superior to all others. Furthermore, this soft-spoken black athlete embarrassed Hitler and undermined his pompous authority in the heart of the Fatherland.

Today is Christ the King Sunday in the liturgical calendar, an appropriate time for us to grapple with the whole question of authority over us. We may not be in danger of being seduced by an evil power such as Hitler, but we may not be clear on the authority to whom we give allegiance. Christ is the King of our hearts, King of our lives. Have we surrendered to Him?

Bible on Thanksgiving

Scripture is filled with reminders of how much we have to be thankful for. Here are just a few of our favorite Bible verses on giving thanks. You can read more Thanksgiving Bible verses at [BibleStudyTools.com](https://www.biblestudytools.com).

"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

"The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad." - Psalm 118:24

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 136:1

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17

"Those who sacrifice thank offerings honor me, and to the blameless I will show my salvation. Psalm 50:23

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever, his faithfulness continues through all generations." - Psalm 100

"Little Omission of Kindness"

William McKinley, the 25th U.S. President, once had to choose between two equally qualified men for a key job. He puzzled over the choice until he remembered a long-ago incident. On a rainy night, McKinley had boarded a crowded streetcar. One of his prospective candidates was in the car. When an old woman carrying a basket of laundry struggled into the car looking for a seat, the job candidate pretended not to see her while McKinley obliged. Remembering the episode as a "little omission of kindness," McKinley decided against the man on the streetcar. ***Our decisions – even the small fleeting ones – tell a lot about us, whether we serve ourselves or Christ our King living in others.***



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.



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING,
NOVEMBER 25, 2024 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

WHEN THE DEACON IS AVAILABLE, WE CONCLUDE ADORATION WITH A BENEDICTION.



September Baptisms

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in September.

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.

*Axel Rhys Bergstrom
Maverick Ruben Rodriguez*

*Leah Hartmann
Giovanni Pearce Zebro*

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.

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.

THE RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE HOSTS ADVENT MOVIE NIGHT

Catholic Community of St. Matthias

RACIAL
JUSTICE
INITIATIVE



DATE: Saturday, December 7th
TIME: 6:00 pm Dinner / 6:30 pm Movie
WHERE: St. John XXIII Room



Please join us for a special Advent movie night! We will be watching Black Nativity, a musical based on the Langston Hughes play. There will be refreshments and lots of fellowship. We will have a free will offering for dinner and ALL are encouraged to attend!

RSVP to matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com by **Thursday, December 5th** so we can be prepared.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Serve

SMYLE will be collecting the following items for Unity Square after all Masses from now until December 8th. The items needed are for men and women.



- Hats
- Scarves
- Gloves
- toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Small deodorants



All items should be marked "SMYLE" and left in the cry room.

The team will pick them up each weekend after Mass. **SMYLE meetings will be from 1:30-3:30.**

We will meet on **Sunday, December 8th** in the cafeteria to sort and bag the items.

GIVING TREE 2024



The Giving Tree will be at the front of the Church beginning **Tuesday, November 26th**, and remain there until **Sunday, December 15th**. During this time you will have the opportunity to take ornaments (gift tags) off the tree and purchase some or all of the items listed.

Gifts/gift cards should be dropped off to the Church the weekends of **December 7th/8th** and **December 14th/15th**. **PLEASE if you take a gift tag, please return the gift. ALL GIFTS ARE DUE BACK DECEMBER 15th.**

St. Matthias parishioners and friends have been very generous in the past. Your kindness is truly appreciated by the recipients at YES Early Learning Centers, Great Expectations, Ozanam Family and Men's Shelter, Naomi's Way, Pregnancy Aid, Elijah's Promise and other local families. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

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.

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	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	\$9,135.00	\$12,370.50	\$21,505.50	\$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		\$186,829.50	\$106,932.14
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of November 30, 2023
			\$592,734.96	\$451,496.67

Stewardship Reflection November 24 , 2024 Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

"Jesus answered, 'My kingdom does not belong to this world.'" (JOHN 18:36)

Life is short. How much time, energy and money do you put into building "your" kingdom here on earth? We all know we can't take it with us. The real kingdom is in the next life. Yet, how much time, energy and money do you invest in working for that eternal kingdom? Ask God for His guidance. Detach from earthly possessions. Generously share your material goods with others for the greater glory of God.

Reflexiónese – 24 de noviembre de 2024 Fiesta de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, Rey del Universo

"Jesús respondió, 'Mi reino no pertenece a este mundo.'" (JUAN 18:36)

La vida es corta. ¿Cuánto tiempo, energía y dinero invierte usted para construir "su" reino aquí en la tierra? Todos sabemos que no podemos llevárnoslo con nosotros. El verdadero reino está en la próxima vida. Y, aun así, ¿Cuánto tiempo, energía y dinero invierte en trabajar para el reino eterno? Pídale a Dios que lo guíe. Despréndase de sus posesiones terrenales. Comparta generosamente sus bienes materiales con otros para la mayor gloria de Dios.



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SPREAD THE LIGHT!



Our Spread The Light campaign is under way and there are still a few trees left 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 are in need of help on **November 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!

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

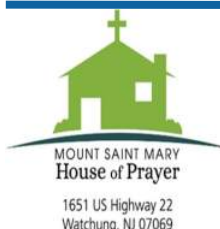
Sign up forms are available at exit doors of the church and on our website.

www.stmatthias.net/trees

Connecting to Our Local Community

National Family Caregivers Month

November is also the “National Family Caregivers Month” – a time to appreciate those who take care of family members who are frail, chronically ill or disabled. Such caregivers provide a vast array of emotional, financial, nursing, social, homemaking and other services on a daily or on an intermittent basis. As we thank God for their willingness to sacrifice their time and energy and re-sources in this noble cause, we need to offer them our appreciation not only in words but also in action. One very practical way is to help them by offering them a respite: a chance to take a breather, the opportunity to re-charge.



CALENDAR RAFFLE

Tickets for a Calendar Raffle to benefit Mount St. Mary House of Prayer, Watchung, are on sale now by calling 908-753-2091. Tickets are \$20 for 13 chances to win from **December, 2024 through February, 2025**. Prizes range from \$300 to \$400. The last day to purchase tickets is **November 29**. Proceeds benefit the ministry of the House of Prayer, which depends on the generosity of its benefactors. The Sisters are most grateful for your support.

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



Plenty to Smile About

With smiles as bright as the autumn sun, Sisters M. Virginelle Makos, Gracy Kundukulam, [Marie Therese Sherwood](#) and Mary Xavier Bomberger welcomed guests to [Monocacy Farm Project](#)'s ninth annual Monocacy Farm Food Festival on October 6, in Bethlehem, PA. The family-friendly day gathered folks from throughout Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley to learn about our ministry's good works in the emergency food system and spotlighted the talents of local artisans and vendors.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Stephen Busono

sbusono@gmail.com

Bill Isele

t33sm@aol.com

Co-Secretaries:

Didi Molano

Sheila Tartaglia

Teresa Yannotta

Joe Percoco

Miles London

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

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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