



**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](http://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](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

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

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info) 732-828-1402  
**School Office Hours**, Monday - Friday,  
 7:45 AM - 3:30 PM

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*  
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**  
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**  
 Nathalie Godet, *Website & Bulletin Coordinator*,  
**ngodet**

Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lg Guillen**  
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**  
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*

Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**  
 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**

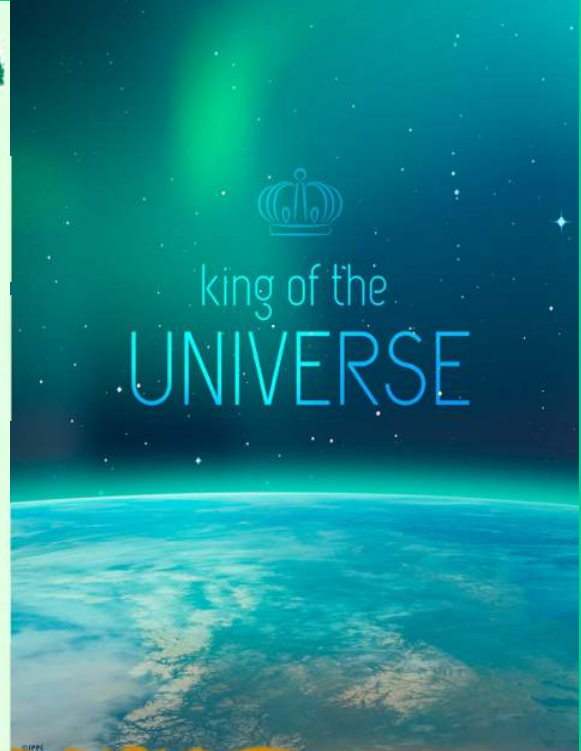
Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral*  
*Assoc. for Social Concerns*, **msherwood**

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

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023**  
 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



We will  
 bless and  
 light the  
 Christmas  
 tress  
 next  
 Saturday  
 after the  
 5 PM Mass



**THE GIVING TREE**  
 WILL BE AT THE  
 FRONT OF THE  
 CHURCH BEGINNING  
 THIS **TUESDAY,**  
**NOVEMBER 28TH.**

*Please see page 7 for  
 more details.*



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND  
 SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE  
 EUCHARISTIC LORD.  
 OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE THIS  
 MONDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 27, 2023  
 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://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 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

**Monday, Nov 27, 2023 St. James Intercisus, Persian Saint & Martyr**

8:00AM Mass /Miraculous Medal Novena Church  
 8:30AM Giving Tree Set-up after Mass Church  
 6:00PM Eucharist Adoration Church

**Tuesday, Nov 28, 2023 St. Catherine Laboure, Marian Visionary**  
**Giving Tuesday**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 6:30PM SMS Multi-sport Club Cafeteria

**Wednesday, Nov 29, 2023 St. Francis Anthony Fasani, Friar & Mystic**

8:00AM Mass, St. Joseph Novena Church  
 9:30AM Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit de Porres Rm  
 7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

**Thursday, Nov 30, 2023 St. Andrew, Apostle**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 3:30PM Children's Choir Gr. 3 & 4 Church  
 4:00PM Children's Choir Gr. 5-8 Church  
 7:30PM Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal Church

**Friday, Dec 1, 2023 St. Edmund Campion, Priest & Martyr**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 8:30AM 1st Friday Holy Hour Church

**Saturday, Dec 2, 2023 St. Bibiana, Martyr**

3:30PM Reconciliation Church  
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church  
 6:00PM Blessing of Manger & Tree Lighting Field

**Sunday, Dec 3, 2023 1st Sunday of Advent**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 10:00AM Mass Church  
 11:00AM Rosary Altar Society Mtg. John XXIII Rm  
 12:00PM Mass Church  
 2:00PM GIFT Church, John XXIII & Clsrms

**Bulletin Article Requests:**

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto: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,

I hope we all had a happy and relaxed time for Thanksgiving, with family and friends. Thanksgiving has put us into the start of the holiday mindset – a whole season of celebrations, excitement, and joy. Generally, we use positive terms to wish one another:

"Happy Thanksgiving." "Happy Hanukkah." "Merry Christmas." "Happy New Year" or, for those who are concerned about political correctness, "Happy Holidays!" But not everyone feels happiness. Studies show that holidays evoke not just feelings of happiness and enjoyment but also sadness, cynicism, and even loneliness. How do we help and support those who don't find calendar holidays a time to celebrate?

Psychologists and counselors recognize high levels of stress and unhappy feelings during this season. They suggest many tips to maintain balance and prioritize one's mental health – including a healthy lifestyle with quality sleep, regular exercise, and a nutrient-dense diet. One tip is to connect and reach out for support. Small groups like family, close friends, and church groups can be a big source of support. I believe it is here that you and I can be observant to sense feelings of unhappiness or depression in individuals around us, so we can reach out to them and offer them encouragement.

As believers, one tip that we can practice, as well as suggest to others, is to turn our emotions over to God and pray for peace and connection every time we feel down. I found Psalm 30 very helpful. Its dominant theme is thanksgiving for God's deliverance. In nearly every line the psalmist either expresses thanks and praise for God's deliverance or describes the circumstances of that deliverance. Keeping the spirit of Thanksgiving, all the days after Thanksgiving Day, is the best way to stay happy.

Today's Feast of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (formerly known as Feast of Christ the King) 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 that leaves God out of our thinking and living and organizes human life as if God did not exist. This 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.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4  
 Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11  
 Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19  
 Thursday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22  
 Friday: Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33  
 Saturday: Dn 7:15-27; Dn 3:82-87; Lk 21:34-36  
 Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Nov 25</b>	5:00PM	Gilberto Gavilanes, by Myrna Silvio
<b>Sunday, Nov 26</b>	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
<b>Monday, Nov 27</b>	8:00AM	Emily & Frank Gatarz, by Claire
<b>Tuesday, Nov 28</b>	8:00AM	Peace in the World, by The Norvila Family
<b>Wednesday, Nov 29</b>	8:00AM	Muriel Aussem & Sr. Mary Thomas, by Tom Aussem
<b>Thursday, Nov 30</b>	8:00AM	Jim Isola, by Ronald B. Jones
<b>Friday, Dec 1</b>	8:00AM	Tom Nileski, by Jack & Sharon Murphy
<b>Saturday, Dec 2</b>	5:00PM	Craig Slyman, by Mom & Dad
<b>Sunday, Dec 3</b>	8:00AM	David Lacson, by The Derikito Family
	10:00AM	Bill Murphy, by Murphy Family
	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](mailto: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	Linda Hartong	Ann McElwee	Sr. Bernadine Marie
Samantha Bellouny	Marilyn Horvath	Jessica Marie Merrick	Stemnock
Tara Capatosto	Amanda Isele	Gail Miranda	Jacqueline Taylor
Elizabeth Card	Baby Elaine Isele	Robert Pellegrino	Anita Vance
Kyle Davidson	Bill Johnson	Robert Pietrowiak	Eileen Weber
Lisa DeFeo	Renée Jolly	Randolff Pinard	Nancy Whelan
Zenon DeGuzman	Bill Kelleher	Valerie Polci	Ginette Zamor
Marlene DiMaggio	Betsy Kondrat	Kim Price	Anne Zando
Hattie Evans	Armando D. Liban	Denise Pultro	
Heinley Gaspard	Mary Lou Littrakis	Doris Regan	<b>And for all who are ill,</b>
Claudia Gemgnani	John Littrakis	Gabriel Rivera	<b>homebound, elderly, in</b>
Emma Gergely	Denis Loboda	Arina Robinson	<b>nursing care, or living with</b>
Gerry & Jack Gernert	Aries Magali	Maria Schwenzer	<b>chronic illness, we pray.</b>
Marie Godet	Al Maglio	Amy Shepp	
Shelly Greene	Christine Matthews	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*



# Reflect



## Smile with Your Family



If you meet a turkey the day after Thanksgiving, what do you call it? = Lucky! 😊

A woman called the Butterball Turkey hotline to find out how long it would take to roast her turkey. To answer the question, the Talk-Line home economist asked how much the bird weighed. The woman responded, "I don't know, it's still running around outside." 😊

A grandma was showing the children a painting of the Pilgrim Family on a Thanksgiving Day card that they had received and she commented, 'The Pilgrim children enjoyed going to church with their mothers and fathers and praying to God.' One of the grandsons looked at her doubtfully and asked, 'If the children enjoyed, why is their father carrying that rifle?' 😊

*If you burnt the Turkey for your Thanksgiving, don't worry. Here are a dozen reasons to be thankful!* 😊

Salmonella won't be a concern.

No one will overeat.

Everyone will think it's Cajun Blackened.

Uninvited guests will think twice next year.

Your cheese broccoli lima bean casserole will gain newly found appreciation.

Pets won't pester you for scraps.

The smoke alarm was due for a test.

Carving the bird will provide a good cardiovascular workout.

After dinner, the guys can take the bird to the yard and play football.

The less turkey Uncle George eats, the less likely he will be able to walk around with his pants unbuttoned.

You'll get to the desserts quicker.

You won't have to face three weeks of turkey sandwiches.



### Parenting Tune-Up

Thanksgiving is over. Let the shopping begin! Or must it? The Friday after Thanksgiving is often called Black Friday - the day stores start to make a profit. Buying gifts isn't inherently bad, but giving an experience is often more memorable. Why not stay home and play a game!

### Marriage Tune-Up



Ways to Turn Your Beloved Off - Let bargain hunting rob you of time - time to serve those who don't have the money even for a bargain. Let Matthew 25 ring in your ears: "I was hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, ill, in prison..." Spend some time and money responding to this sales pitch from Christ the King as Christmas approaches.

## Stewardship Quote

Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others.

– St. Augustine



### Highway to Super Savior!

A Church in Ohio did it with a large icon--a 62-foot-tall statue of Jesus with upraised arms, installed in a cornfield just north of Monroe, Ohio on Interstate 75. The Solid Rock Church, in Middletown, erected the statue--dubbed Super Savior"--. Here is what is interesting. Traffic fatalities on this notorious stretch of road have dropped dramatically since the Super Savior statue was raised. Is that pure coincidence or has the Styrofoam and fiberglass Christ really aided road safety? Nobody knows. [Dr. John Bardsley. Source: *National Catholic Reporter* (54-28-2005), p. 3.]

***Certainly a giant statue of Christ does no harm, and if it improves traffic, that's fine. However, do not be confused. This is not the best way to express our allegiance to Christ. The best way to express our allegiance to Christ is to make our lives worthy of the name Christian.***

## King who Conquered Death!

Worldly kings do not have this power. Their last enemy is death, which ends their power, wealth, and prestige. In Vienna there is a crypt under a Capuchin church. In this crypt are buried 140 Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses. Each sarcophagus is sculptured in steel. The largest is a double tomb for Maria Theresa and her husband. On each sarcophagus was carved a cross and the Royal crown. On each corner of one sarcophagus was a skull wearing a crown.

***The message was clear: Death was king! Even kings are conquered by death. But the King of God's realm lives in spite of death. And so we, as Christians belonging to Him, have no fear of death, for by the power of His cross, death was defeated for us all.***



## Gandhi's Strength

In the published diaries of Joseph Goebbels, the infamous Nazi Propagandist, there are two or three references to Mahatma Gandhi. Goebbels believed that Gandhi was a fool and a fanatic.

If Gandhi had the sense to organize militarily, Goebbels thought, he might hope to win the freedom of India. He was certain that Gandhi couldn't succeed by following a path of non-resistance and peaceful revolution.

***Yet as history played itself out, India peacefully won her independence while the Nazi military machine was destroyed. What Goebbels regarded as weakness actually turned out to be strength. What he thought of as strength turned out to be weakness. Jesus the King won freedom for mankind and won the hearts of mankind by his death on the cross.***

## Putting a Price Tag on a Life

**The parable of the sheep and the goats: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25: 31-46**

Attorney Kenneth Feinberg served as special master of the Federal September 11 Victim Compensation Fund. He was charged with dispensing money to the families of each person who died in the 9/11 terror attacks. It was, to say the least, a daunting job. Feinberg began administering the funds using a formula based on legal precedent that considered the individual victim's age, dependents, financial assets - and earning potential. The value assigned to those lost lives varied dramatically: as little as \$250,000 for blue-collar workers to as much as \$7 million for CEOs. The process had a dramatic effect on Feinberg himself. He found his personal convictions coming into conflict with the law. In an essay on NPR [May 25, 2008], he said of the work:

"The law required that I give more money to the stockbroker, the bond trader and the banker than to the waiter, the policeman, the fireman, and the soldier at the Pentagon. This is what happens every day in courtrooms throughout the nation. Our system of justice has always been based on this idea: that compensation should be directly related to the financial circumstances of each victim. "But as I met with the 9/11 families and wrestled with the issues surrounding the valuation of lives lost, I began to question this basic premise. Trained in the law, I had always accepted that no two lives were worth the same in financial terms. But now I found the law in conflict with my growing belief in the quality of all life. | -Mr. Feinberg, my husband was a fireman and died a hero at the World Trade Center. Why are you giving me less money than the banker who represented Enron? Why are you demeaning the memory of my husband?"

Attorney Feinberg realizes that his response was unconvincing. He was following the law, just as juries did every day. However, grieving families couldn't hear it - and, Feinberg said, "I didn't believe it myself." Two years later, Kenneth Feinberg was asked again to design and administer a compensation program: a privately funded compensation system established for the families and victims of the Virginia Tech shootings. This time citizen Feingold trumped lawyer Feingold: All victims - students and faculty - received the same compensation. "I have resolved my personal conflict and have learned a valuable lesson at the same time," Kenneth Feingold says. "I believe that public compensation should avoid financial distinctions which only fuel the hurt and grief of the survivors. I believe that all lives should be treated the same."

**The true value of every human life is the light of the divine that each one of us possesses; our worth is found in the love of God that our lives reveal to the world. Before God, we stand as brothers and sisters; before God, the distinctions of class and culture that separate us disappear; before God, we are all loved without condition and limit. Attorney Feingold, in the difficult role of administering the two compensation funds, realizes that a legal standard cannot measure a true person's "worth," that a life well-lived and faithful has little to do with assets and earning potential. Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats challenges us to see the world in the light of God's compassion. As a community that is centered in the holiness of God that dwells within every man, woman and child; a community that sees deeper than the externals of race, nationality, culture and language in order to behold the love of God animating the lives of all who draw breath; a community that reflects the compassion and mercy of God in our care for one another.**

## Is Jesus a King? Yes, but a Unique King!

**The New Testament tells us that Jesus is the long-awaited king of the Jews.** In the Annunciation, recorded in Lk.1:32-33, we read: **“The Lord God will make him a King, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the King of the descendants of Jacob forever and his Kingdom will never end.”** The Magi from the Far East came to Jerusalem and asked the question: (Mt 2:2) *“Where is the baby born to be the King of the Jews? We saw his star... and we have come to worship him.”* During the royal reception given to Jesus on Palm Sunday, the Jews shouted: (Lk 19:38) *“Blessed is the King, who comes in the name of the Lord.”* When Pilate asked the question: (Jn 18:33) *“Are you the King of the Jews?”* Jesus, in the course of their conversation, made his assertion, *“You say that I am a King. For this was I born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the Truth. Everyone who belongs to the Truth listens to My Voice”* (John 18:37).

**A unique King with a unique Kingdom:** Jesus Christ still lives as King, in thousands of human hearts all over the world. The cross is his throne and the Sermon on the Mount is his rule of law. His citizens need obey only one law: *“Love others as I have loved you”* (John 59:56). His love is selfless, sacrificial, kind, compassionate, forgiving and unconditional. That is why the preface in today’s Mass describes Jesus’ Kingdom as *“a Kingdom of truth and life, a Kingdom of holiness and grace, a Kingdom of justice, love and peace.”* He is a King with a saving and liberating mission: to free mankind from all types of bondage so that we may live peacefully and happily on earth and inherit Eternal Life in Heaven. His rule consists in seeking the lost, offering salvation to those who call out to him and making friends of enemies.

## Importance of “Giving Tuesday”

As we know, “Giving Tuesday” is a global day to give generously to charity after the Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales events. According to the University of Notre Dame’s [Institute for Church Life](#), Catholics in the U.S. rank last behind Jews, Protestants and Mormons when it comes to giving to the Church and its ministries. A study called [“Unleashing Catholic Generosity: Explaining the Catholic Giving Gap in the United States”](#) found that Mormons ranked the best: More than seven out of 10 tithe (give 10% of their income) to their church or charities, and more than six out of 10 gave specifically to religious causes. Among Catholics, however, only 15% reported tithing, and little more than one out of five give to the Church (or religious causes) at all.

The study, however, found that economics was not the likely culprit but American Catholics’ lack of “spiritual engagement with money.” The results showed parishes with a “pay-the-bills culture” or a failure to communicate the vision had far lower levels of religious giving and tithing, whereas parishes that invited people to be part of the planning and vision, discussed the need for money in that context and communicated the good things that their donations would accomplish saw “more generous giving.”

Catholic leaders are starting to realize that the Church’s ministries need to tell their stories better, so people feel personally involved in the Church’s work and “transforming the lives of others.” The Giving campaign is an opportunity to show the Church’s members and donors “this is what you can accomplish for God’s kingdom.” “If we can help our parishes, agencies and schools cast out this vision of what people’s generosity can accomplish, we can slowly get to that point where people are no longer giving to a need, but understand they have a need to give.”

## Who are the Terrorists of God’s Kingdom?

Terrorism has affected the entire world, including Christ’s kingdom on earth. These terrorists are people who slaughter the unborn; engage in a frontal attack on the modern family through provocative television shows, movies, music and pornography; eradicate any recognition of God from public display and public schools; they include those priests and the religious who abuse children. Hence, Jesus, the King, needs convinced apostles prepared and ready to fight against these enemies. First by prayer, then by accepting willingly the sufferings that come our way and offering them to God with Jesus, our King, in reparation for our sins and the sins of the world, and finally by living lives of loving humble service, using our gifts generously for all.

**The battlefield is the home, the school, the place of employment, the neighborhood, and the parish. These provide new and exciting challenges, new opportunities for us to do, ourselves, what is right and to live out the Truth of Jesus Christ our King, neither compromising with sin nor passing judgment on the motives or guilt of any of our brothers and sisters, but loving and praying for all of us. To ensure that Jesus is always the King of our hearts, we need to make a great commitment to Him and to back that commitment with the necessary sacrifices, conviction, hard work and daily, serious prayer.**



# Serve



## The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree will be at the front of the Church beginning this **Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**, and remain there until Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. During this time you will have the opportunity to take ornaments and purchase some or all of the items listed. Once again, you can visit [www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net) for additional gifting options. We will be collecting and sorting gifts on the weekends of **December 9<sup>th</sup> /10<sup>th</sup>** and **December 16<sup>th</sup> /17<sup>th</sup>**. **Please note we will be collecting gifts on these weekends only. ALL GIFTS ARE DUE BACK ON DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>**

Also, please **SECURE THE ORNAMENTS TO THE PACKAGES**, otherwise, we have no way of knowing where the gifts are to be delivered.

We can always use more elves and need drivers for deliveries on the mornings of **December 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**, after the 8:00 AM Mass. Should you have any questions and/or would like to volunteer to help, please contact:

**Joanne Diana at (732)322-6270 or [j-diana@comcast.net](mailto:j-diana@comcast.net)**

St. Matthias parishioners and friends have always been generous in the past.

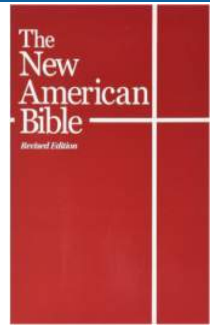
Please keep up our tradition – it means a lot to so many people in need. **Thank you!**

# Pray

## Sermon On The Mount

**Thursday, November 30, 2023, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

This six-week course will be presented by Fr. Glenn Comandini, S.T.D. and will explore the gospel in which the Beatitudes are couched. Through the use of PowerPoint slides, questions and answers, and the "New American Bible," attendees will have a better grasp of what God is communicating. Please bring your bible to each session. There is no fee to attend, but registration is required (please register only one time). Free-will donations are gratefully accepted.



**For more information or to register, please email [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org) or call 732-562-1990**



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic Pilgrimage**

## NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage (NEP) has publicly launched! The NEP (<https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/>) will consist of four cross-country Eucharistic processions, collectively traversing the entire continental United States over a two-month period, beginning during the feast of Pentecost, May 17-19, 2024.

The pilgrimage is being organized by the National Eucharistic Revival campaign in conjunction with Modern Catholic Pilgrim, a Catholic nonprofit dedicated to deepening the faith across the country through pilgrimages. Along the way, the pilgrims will make stops in major U.S. cities, churches, Catholic colleges, and holy sites. Parishes along the routes will host Mass, adoration, devotions, praise and worship, lectures on the Eucharist, and more.

The Seton Route, which will begin in New Haven, Connecticut, will be passing through the Diocese of Metuchen on May 27-28, 2024. The four pilgrimage processions will ultimately converge in Indianapolis on July 16, 2024, to participate in the National Eucharistic Congress. Adam Carlisle, Secretary for Evangelization and Communication, will be helping to organize our diocese's involvement. If anyone is interested in assisting with this important event, please feel free to contact him at [acarlisle@diometuchen.org](mailto:acarlisle@diometuchen.org).



*“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 Servant of God, Julia Greenley.



**Servant of God Julia Greeley** Denver’s *Angel of Charity* was born into slavery at Hannibal, Missouri, between 1833 and 1848. As a young child, Julia’s right eye was destroyed by a cruel slave master’s whip. Freed by the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, she subsequently earned her keep by serving white families in Missouri, Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico—though mostly in the Denver area. She spent whatever she could spare to assist poor families in her neighborhood. When her own resources were inadequate, she begged for food, fuel, and clothing for the needy. To avoid embarrassing the people she helped, Julia did most of her charitable work under cover of night through dark alleys. Julia entered the Catholic Church at Sacred Heart Parish in Denver in 1880. The Jesuits who ran the parish considered her the most enthusiastic promoter of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus they had ever seen. Every month she went on foot to every fire station in Denver and delivered literature of the Sacred Heart League

to the firemen, Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Julia had a rich devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin. She was a daily communicant and continued her prayers while working and moving about. She joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1901 and was active in it until her death in 1918. Many people asked that her cause be opened for canonization. This request was finally granted in the Fall of 2016. As part of the Cause for Canonization, Julia’s mortal remains were transferred to Denver’s Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on June 7, 2017.



**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.



## Learn



St. Matthias School is looking for help in the following areas:

- After School Program (Paid Position)
- Substitute Teachers (\$95 a day)
- School Advisory Council (Finance Volunteer)
- Athletic Association (Directors/Board Member Volunteers)
- School Finance Members (Volunteers)
- Marketing (Stipend)

Please email **Mrs. Mary Lynch**, Principal at [mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org) for more information.



SMS students, faculty, parents, and friends rocked their [teambellouny](#) shirts in support of Mrs. Bellouny, our Middle School teacher. Mrs. Bellouny, you are an inspiration to all and you are in our daily.

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL

# St. Matthias Holiday Craft Fair

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2023  
9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
170 JFK BLVD.  
SOMERSET, NJ

TOYS, CANDLES, JEWELRY, BAGS, DECORATIONS

## SMS CHRISTMAS BAND CONCERT

6:30PM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH IN  
CHURCH

COME SUPPORT THE BAND STUDENTS AT  
SMS AND ENJOY THE MUSIC!

## 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.

## 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	\$8,747.50	\$13,140.25	\$21,887.75	\$21,264.25
Week 13 - November 26, 2023			\$0.00	\$19,212.25
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>November Total Last Year</b>
			\$88,624.89	\$97,691.75
			<b>Current Year-to-date</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of November</b>
			\$1,896,129.50	\$1,871,586.06

### Stewardship Reflection November 26, 2023 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

*"... whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me." – MATTHEW 25:40*

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. But, real generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient to us, when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's timeline.

### Reflexiónese 26 de noviembre 2023

### Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, Rey del Universo

*"...Les aseguro que todo lo que hicieron por uno de mis hermanos, aún por el más pequeño, lo hicieron por mí." - MATEO 25:40*

La mayoría somos generosos cuando es conveniente para nosotros. Somos generosos cuando tenemos el tiempo o el dinero, pero la verdadera generosidad es lo opuesto a eso. Significa dar nuestro tiempo, el dinero, la compasión, el perdón o la misericordia cuando no es conveniente para nosotros, cuando no está en nuestro horario, sino en el tiempo de la otra persona.



## 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

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b> <b>Co-Chairs:</b> Frank Rees <a href="mailto:Frees814@gmail.com">Frees814@gmail.com</a> Marilyn Wegg <a href="mailto:mcw-wam@comcast.net">mcw-wam@comcast.net</a>	<b>Co-Secretaries:</b> Stephen Busono <a href="mailto:sbusono@gmail.com">sbusono@gmail.com</a> Bill Isele <a href="mailto:t33sm@aol.com">t33sm@aol.com</a> Al Drabnis Didi Molano	Sheila Tartaglia Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio <b>Trustees:</b> Pearl Scott Marge Richards	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b> Kester Hector, Chair <b>FinanceCouncil</b> <a href="mailto:@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a> Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Gwen Orlovski	Audrey Francis Joan Pritchard Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
--	---	---	--	--

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

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

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

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

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



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



**ARE THESE YOUR SIZE?**



**MIDDLEBUSH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.**  
 21 OLCOTT STREET  
**FIRE FIGHTERS NEEDED WE WILL TRAIN!**

[www.middlebushfire.com](http://www.middlebushfire.com) [HELP@MIDDLEBUSHFIRE.COM](mailto:HELP@MIDDLEBUSHFIRE.COM)  
 MIDDLEBUSH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT [www.middlebushfire.com](http://www.middlebushfire.com)



**Complete Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling**  
 Porcelain Marble  
 Granite Countertops  
 Heated Floors  
 Backsplashes  
 Shower Doors  
**732-514-1500**  
 Lic # 13VH00782600  
 (Parishioner)

EXCELLENCE GUARANTEED

**Resta's Auto Care**

 **732-873-8900**  
[Restas.com](http://Restas.com)  *Trusted For 77 Years*  
 1873 Amwell Road • Somerset

**Morgan**  
 basement waterproofing

*In Our 4th Decade of Quality Service*  
**French Drains • Foundation Repair • Mold Remediation**  
 All Work Guaranteed  
**732-777-7888**  
[www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com](http://www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com)

**catholicmatch**<sup>®</sup>  
 New Jersey  
[CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ](http://CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ)



**PA FINANCIAL, CPA**  
 Professional Tax, Accounting, Bookkeeping, Payroll  
[www.pafinancials.com](http://www.pafinancials.com)  
 Email: philip@pafinancials.com • Parishioner  
 732-325-3157 • Somerset, NJ 08873




**SPRINGHILLS**  
 LIVE HAPPY

*RE-IMAGINE SENIOR LIVING*

An Assisted Living and Memory Care Community in your neighborhood.

**SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!**

**732.873.4800**  
 473 Demott Lane  
 Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.springhills.com](http://www.springhills.com)

**PROTECTIVE PAVING**



**DRIVEWAYS PARKING LOTS**  
 FULLY INSURED  
 FREE ESTIMATES  
**732-828-4177**  
 SOMERSET, NJ



**Diocese of Metuchen**  
 Catholic Cemeteries and Crematory  
**800-943-8400**

Holy Cross Burial Park 840 Cranbury-South River Rd. Jamesburg, NJ 08831  
 Resurrection Burial Park Hoes Lane and Park Ave. Piscataway, NJ 08854

[www.diometuchen.org/cemeteries](http://www.diometuchen.org/cemeteries)




**ARE YOU CONSIDERING PLACING AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE ST. MATTHIAS WEEKLY BULLETIN?**



*Now is a great time to call and find out how you can support our parish and grow your business at the same time!*

**Call 1.800.333.3166 today for details on this great opportunity!**



**C & F Paint Hardware**  
Benjamin Moore Paints  
1075 Easton Ave., Suite 12 A  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
732-764-8908  
www.candfpaint.com  
Frank Del Tufo - Owner

**SUPERIOR HARDWOOD FLOORING**  
FREE ESTIMATES  
SANDING | INSTALLS | REPAIRS | REFINISHING  
Franco Oliveira 201.744.8883  
superiorhardwoodflooring@hotmail.com

**Steve's Pizza & Restaurant**  
900 Easton Ave. Somerset Village  
732-247-0400  
\$1.50 Off Large 18" Pie

**SOLD BARROOD**  
Selling, Buying or Renting Houses - Call us for help!  
700 EASTON AVE., SOMERSET  
732-846-1661  
Good people, great service, since 1940  
PARISHIONER

**Waterstone WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC**  
**John C. Moynihan, CFP®**  
Certified Financial Planner™, practitioner  
Somerset, NJ  
732.873.0433 • www.wwallc.net  
Practical Solutions for Managing Wealth

**AJS PAINTING**  
TONY SCHINELLA, PARISHIONER  
Friendly, Courteous Service  
Owner Operated, Free Proposals  
Meticulous, Guaranteed Work  
Highest Quality, Affordable Price  
No Job Too Small • Since 2001  
732-873-8477

**BRIGHT VIEW POWERWASHING & PAINTING**  
Greg Dente, Owner/Operator  
Somerset & surrounding areas  
Friendly & Reliable Services  
Free estimates • Guaranteed work  
We keep our promises • No job too small  
POWERWASHING & SMALL PAINTING WORK  
908.812.2061

**GLEASON FUNERAL HOME**  
AT NEED CARE • PRE-NEED • MONUMENTS  
PARISHIONER OWNED  
William K. Gleason, Mgr., N.J. Lic. No. 4489  
1360 HAMILTON STREET • SOMERSET, NJ  
732-545-0700  
WWW.GLEASONFUNERALHOME.COM

**Dolan** since 1949  
Kitchen & Bath Remodeling  
American Standard HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING  
Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric  
732-247-2763  
696 Franklin Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
www.jackdolanandsons.com info@jackdolanandsons.com

**WE'RE HIRING!**  
Substitute Teachers & Support Staff throughout New Jersey  
Apply today at SOURCE4TEACHERS.com

**D'Angiolillo Chiropractic Center**  
Find out more about us and how we can help you!  
Visit Our Website @ www.DrJoeD.com  
(732) 873-2222  
PROFESSIONAL CENTER AT SOMERSET  
11 Clyde Road, Suite 103  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
Serving Our Community Since 1985

**BRUNSWICK FURNITURE OUTLET, LLC**  
330 Townsend St., New Brunswick, NJ  
**Rafael** Se Habla Español  
732-354-4420

**April Tarantino**  
Broker Associate  
Direct: (732) 735-3511  
apriltarantino@hotmail.com  
www.apriltarantino.com  
31 Years Experience - Somerset Specialist

**RIDESHARE ZONE**  
**S top Ask Match Inform #WHATSMYNAME**

**Mallory's Army Foundation**  
United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...  
Don't Just Teach Kindness... BE KINDNESS!  
www.MallorysArmy.com (973) 440-8657  
info@mallorysarmy.org  
It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message:  
Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.  
Message and data rates may apply.

**RAIKE'S Home Improvement LLC**  
732-249-7113  
Fully Insured Lic. 13VH06498900 www.raikeshomeimprovement.com  
We Install & Construct  
• Windows • Finished Basements • Siding  
• Doors • Kitchens • Roofing  
• Decks • Baths • Custom Interior Woodwork  
Power Washing  
Homes • Decks • Sidewalks • Driveways • Stoops • Etc.  
No Job Too Small! Cabinet Refacing Parishioner

**DALTON**  
QUALITY PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
Serving Central NJ Since 1986  
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SALES/SERVICE  
All Major Credit Cards Accepted  
P. Lic. #12425 • E. Lic. #9526  
NJ Reg #13VH02047500 • HVAC Lic. 1510  
**ELECTRIC, PLUMBING HEATING & COOLING**  
NOW HIRING QUALIFIED TEAM MEMBERS  
1186 LIVINGSTON AVENUE, NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ  
732-247-7390 • www.DaltonElectricCo.com

**FRANKLIN ELECTRIC MAINTENANCE CO. INC.** Lic. #18219  
Family owned and operated since 1956.  
**GENERAC SALES & SERVICE DEALER**  
-SALES  
-SERVICE  
-INSTALLATION  
732-249-1359  
www.FranklinElectricNJ.com  
DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK!

**FIND YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND.**  
\$60 adoption fee | animals are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped & up-to-date on shots  
**Franklin Township Animal Shelter**  
475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873  
732.873.2500 x6255 | Tue-Fri 12-3 & Sat 12-6  
Ad sponsored by Second Chance For Animals

**BOYLAN Funeral Home**  
188 Easton Avenue  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
732-545-4040  
**Robert Fox, Manager**  
N.J. License No. 4371  
www.BoylanFH.com  
Family owned and operated since 1958  
10 Wooding Avenue  
Edison, NJ 08817  
732-572-0076