



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
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 3, 2024

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

The *greatest* Commandments



© JPCC

Our special Memorial Mass for those who
departed from us this year is
TODAY at 5:30 PM



*The 2025 Mass Book
Will Be Opened on
Monday, November 11, 2024*
See page 2 for more on Mass Intentions



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME
QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.
OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING,
NOVEMBER 4, 2024 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.
WHEN THE DEACON IS AVAILABLE,
WE CONCLUDE ADORATION WITH A BENEDICTION.

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

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

Saturday, Nov 2, 2024 All Souls Day

8:00AM All Souls Day Mass Church

Sunday, Nov 3, 2024

8:00AM Mass Church
10:00AM Mass Church
11:00AM RCIA de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
11:00AM Rosary Altar Mtg. St. John XXIII Rm
12:00PM Mass Church
2:00PM GIFT Church, John XXIII Rm, classrms
5:30PM All Souls Remembrance Mass Church

Monday, Nov 4, 2024 St. Charles Borromeo, Cardinal & Archbishop of Milan

8:00AM Mass, Miraculous Medal Novena Church
6:00PM Eucharistic Adoration Church

Tuesday, Nov 5, 2024 St. Zechariah & St. Elizabeth, Parents of St. John the Baptist

8:00AM Mass Church

Wednesday, Nov 6, 2024 St. Leonard of Noblac, Abbot of Noblac

8:00AM Mass St. Joseph Novena Church
9:30AM Holy Spirit Prayer Group de Porres Rm
2:00PM Bereavement Gathering de Porres Rm
7:30PM Folk Group rehearsal Church

Thursday, Nov 7, 2024 St. Ernest, Martyr & Abbot

8:00AM Mass Church
3:30PM Children's Choir, Grades 3 & 4 Church
4:00PM Children's Choir Grades 5-8 Church
7:00PM Knight of Columbus Meeting Church
7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday, Nov 8, 2024 Bl. John Duns Scotus, Priest

8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, Nov 9, 2024 Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

3:30PM Reconciliation Church
5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, Nov 10, 2024

8:00AM Mass Church
10:00AM First Reconciliation #2 Church
10:00AM Mass /Feast of St. Martin DePorres Church
11:00AM RCIA de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
12:00PM Mass Church
1:30PM Baptisms 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,

This weekend and for the whole of November, we fondly remember all our near and dear departed ones. Some of the earliest Christian writings outside the New Testament, like the Acts of Paul and Thecla and the Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicity (both written during the second century), refer to the Christian practice of praying for the dead. Praying for the deceased members of the family as part of their family night prayers was also an ancient practice of oriental Christians. The early Fathers of the Church encouraged this practice which they believed had been inherited from the Apostles. Tertullian (A.D. 160-240) wrote about the anniversary Masses for the dead, advising widows to pray for their husbands. St. Augustine remarked that he used to pray for his deceased mother, remembering her request: "When I die, bury me anywhere you like, but remember to pray for me at the altar" (Confessions, Book 11, Chapter 13, 35-37).

What is a Mass intention? Offering a Mass for our departed family members is an age-old and venerable custom. This is why we have Mass intentions announced at every Mass. A Mass intention may be requested for: a deceased loved one, a living person who is sick or suffering, a living person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special moment in their life, in thanksgiving to God for His blessings, in thanksgiving for a favor received through the intercession of a Saint, or for a prayer intention (so long as the intention does not contradict Church teaching). We announce these intentions at every Mass here at St. Matthias.

Opening our 2025 Book of Mass Intentions: In our parish there are many requests for scheduling Mass intentions. Our 2025 Book of Mass Intentions will be opened on Monday, November 11, 2024, 8:30 AM in the Parish Office. There have been increasing requests for additional Mass intentions during unforeseen special occasions such as death, month's mind, etc., Last year, considering these, I had allowed additional intentions with the existing intention for the Mass. In such cases, we will be accepting only one additional intention, which will be announced in the Universal Prayers (Prayers of the Faithful). It may not appear in the bulletin. Please know that, as per the laws of the Church, stipend/offering for these additional Mass intentions will be sent to the Mission Office of our Diocese or to missionary priests overseas.

So, is stipend the cost of a Mass? It is very important for us to know that the stipend is NOT the cost of a Mass. In fact, the Code of Canon Law uses the word "offering," not "stipend" – to highlight that this is a suggested amount of offering. To require payment would be wrong, and in fact the code specifies that priests should "celebrate Mass for the intention of the Christian faithful, especially the needy, even if they have not received an offering" (945.2). In my 40-plus years of priesthood, many people have asked me, "How much does a Mass cost?" I always answered that there is no cost or fee because the graces flowing from Mass are of infinite value. I further clarified that there is a suggested offering, but if that's unaffordable, you can donate something less or nothing at all, and the Mass will still be offered for the intention you desire. More details will be in next Sunday's bulletin.

Let us make this traditional prayer ours: *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday Phil 2:1-4 Ps 131:1bcd, 2, 3
Lk 14:12-14

Tuesday Phil 2:5-11 Ps 22:26B-27, 28-30AB,
30E, 31-32 Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday Phil 2:12-18 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14
Lk 14:25-33

Thursday Phil 3:3-8a Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
Lk 15:1-10

Friday Phil 3:17-4:1 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4AB, 4CD-5
Lk 16:1-8

Saturday Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6,
8-9 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17 Jn 2:13-22

Sunday 1 Kgs 17:10-16 Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10
Heb 9:24-28 Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44



Mass Intentions for the Week

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------|--|
| Sat., November 2 | 5:00PM | Vito L. Pinto, by The Lanyi & Kantor Families |
| | | Adele Miara, by The Coffaro Family |
| | | Felisa & all the Deceased members of the De Guzman Family, by Alma |
| Sun., November 3 | 8:00AM | Intention of Parishioners |
| | 10:00AM | Mary Ann Selenko, by Ellin Ossandon |
| | 12:00PM | Marius & Nancy Moran, by Sherry & Joe Brucia |
| | 5:30PM | James Meagher, by Children |
| | | All Souls Remembrance Mass |
| Mon., November 4 | 8:00AM | Nancy Collins by Marty |
| Tues., November 5 | 8:00AM | John Collins by Marty Collins |
| Wed., November 6 | 8:00AM | Nicandro Ventura by Kathleen Referente & Family |
| | | Marie Segreto by Rubino-Huber Family |
| | | Birthday Blessing for Amelita Villon by Flora Sunga |
| Thurs., November 7 | 8:00AM | Barbara Eppensteiner by Rubino-Huber Family |
| | | Reynaldo & Teresita Masalunga by The Family |
| | | Anna Moran by The Family |
| Fri., November 8 | 8:00AM | Marty Shaw by Your Green Chair Friends |
| Sat., November 9 | 5:00PM | Rosemarie Gessner by Eugene & Maryann Gessner |
| | | Intention of Parishioners |
| | | Helen & Al Jago by The Finan Family |
| Sun., November 10 | 8:00AM | Myrna H. Ignacio by Susan Tiongson |
| | | |
| | | |

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

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Renée Jolly

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



The child's commandments:

A Sunday school teacher was talking to a class of five- and six-year-olds about the Ten Commandments. "Can you give me a Commandment with only four words?" she asked. "I know," said a little girl: "Keep off the grass." The discussion turned to family love and the teacher brought in the Commandment, "Honor thy father and thy mother." Then she asked, "What about a Commandment that tells us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" A little boy who had five brothers and sisters was quick to answer: "I know," he said, "You shall not kill." When the class ended, two of the boys began to poke each other. The teacher intervened saying, "Didn't we just finish talking about the Golden Rule?" to which one of the little combatants replied, "Yes but he did it unto me first." 😊

Commandments and rules for others:

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless. 😊

When you get a headache, take two aspirin and keep away from children, just like the bottle says. 😊

What's the main rule of the Insomnia Olympics?
You snooze, You lose 😊

First rule of English grammar?
Double negatives are a no no. 😊

The first rule of Condescending club is kind of complex, and I don't think you would understand it, even if I explained it to you! 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

This is All Souls Day/weekend. How well do your children know their deceased relatives? Why not help them remember by praying for each by name today. Go back as far as you can remember and perhaps reminisce about their saintly qualities.

Marriage Tune-Up



"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." (Mark 12:31) Yes, this is true. In addition to wholehearted love of God, can you also say this about your beloved spouse since God lives in him or her also?

A Pearl of Wisdom For This Week

Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.

FAITH IN GOD OR THE STARS?

Some years ago, Canadian sociologist Reginald Bibby reports of Canadians (though this could be true of others too): "Eighty-eight percent know their astrological signs, with half of the entire population reading their horoscopes at least once a month, outnumbering Bible readers by two to one." Wouldn't it be great if 88% of the people were starting their day with the Word of God, not the alignment of the stars? This is applicable to any of us.

We need to understand the novel contribution Jesus gave in these greatest commandments in answer to the question of the Scribe. He gave a straightforward answer, quoting directly from the Law itself and startling them with his profound simplicity and mastery of the law of God and its purpose. He cited the first sentence of the Jewish Shema prayer: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:4). Then He added its complementary law: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). Jesus' contribution combined the originally separate commandments and presented them as the essence of true religion. True religion, Jesus says, is loving God and loving our fellow human beings at the same time, which means the only way a person can demonstrate real love for God is by showing genuine, active love for neighbor. The "great commandment in the Law" is really threefold: We are commanded (1) to love God, (2) to love our neighbor, and (3) to love ourselves. We are to love God, for it is in loving Him that we are brought to the perfection of His image in us. We are to love our neighbor and ourselves as well, because both of us bear God's image, and to honor God's image is to honor Him who made it. We are to love our neighbor and our self as a way to love God: God gives us our neighbors to love so that we may learn to love Him.

HOW TO WRITE A LOVE LETTER!

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength . . . 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself . . . 'There is no other commandment greater than this." Mark 12: 28-34

Have you ever written a love letter? How did it go? Did it express what you wanted to say to the one you loved? Did it touch the heart of your beloved? Or was it "dismissed" as "nice" or "precious" and put aside like a greeting card? There's an art to writing a love letter. Tom Chiarella, a professor of creative writing at DePauw, chronicles his own successes and failures at writing love letters in a piece for **Esquire Magazine**. He offers these tips to anyone trying to write a good love letter.

Remember, first, that it's a letter, not a card. If what you want to express is a sentiment that you can buy, then what you're feeling might not be love. Sit down and write. Letters take time; letters have a rhythm. There are no bullet points. No clipping and pasting. The words have to be yours. Keep in mind that the purpose of a love letter is to acknowledge, Chiarella advises. You're creating a record of the previous four months or two weeks or that day or the very moment in which you find yourself. A good love letter is about memory. Let example precede sentiment. **Show** your beloved what you love about him or her before you **tell** them what you love about them. Don't overdo the earnestness or the genuineness. Strive for clarity. And remember that a love letter is private - and therefore it can bear some risk. In this way, a love letter is like love itself.

A well-written and thought-out love letter requires the same totality and focus that Jesus speaks of in today's Gospel. To love as God loves us demands every element of who we are - our heart, our soul, our mind, our strength; our full attention, our time, our gratitude. Like a good love letter, love begins with a commitment of time and attention. Love is expressed in our words, however clumsy and unsophisticated they may be, but the words must come from our hearts. Love is discovered and nurtured in memories - we are attuned to and cherish those moments in which the love of God becomes real to us in the goodness and grace of the one we love. And the love of God forces us outside our comfort zone, to put our own feelings and wants on the line, to risk being hurt or misunderstood for the sake of the beloved. It is in such complete and uncompromising love that we most resemble God; it is in selfless and simple generosity and giving that we participate in the very life of God.

WHICH IS THE RIGHT RELIGION?

Moses Mendelson tells the story of a woman who came to a great teacher and asked him: "Teacher, how do I know which religion is the right one?" The teacher replied with a story of a great and wise King with three sons. This King had a precious gift--a magic ring that gave him great compassion, generosity, and a spirit of kindness. As he was dying, each of his sons went to him and asked the father for the ring after his death. And he promised to each of the sons that he would give him the ring. Now how could he possibly do that for all three sons? Here's what he did. Before he died he called in the finest jewelry maker of the land and asked him to make two identical copies of the ring. After his death each of his sons was presented with a ring. Well, it wasn't long before each of the sons figured out that his brothers also had a ring and therefore two of them had to be fakes. Only one of them could be the genuine article. And so they went before a judge and asked the judge to help them determine which was the authentic ring. Then they could determine who the proper heir was. The judge, however, could not distinguish among the three rings. And so he said: "We shall watch and see which son behaves in the most gracious, generous, and kind manner. Then we will know which possesses the original ring." And from that day on, each son lived as if he was the one with the magic ring, and no one could tell which was the most gracious, generous, and kind. Then the teacher, having told this story, said to the woman, "If you wish to know which religion is true, watch and see which reveals God's love for the world."

WHY KEEP ALL SOULS DAY?

November 2 is a day specially set apart that we may remember and pray for our dear ones who have gone to their eternal reward, and who are currently in a state of ongoing purification. From time immemorial, people of all religions have believed in the immortality of the soul, and have prayed for the dead. The Jews, for example, believed that there was a place of temporary bondage from which the souls of the dead would receive their final release. The Jewish Talmud states that prayers for the dead will help to bring greater rewards and blessings to them. Since Jesus in no way contradicted this ancient belief, the efficacy of prayers for those who have died was incorporated by the infant Church in its teachings and practice. St. Paul seems to have shared this traditional Jewish belief. At the death of his supporter Onesiphorus, he prayed: "May the Lord grant him mercy on that Day" (II Timothy: 1:18).

Other evidence suggests that the belief dates back to the first century of the Church. "Remember us who have gone before you, in your prayers," is a petition often found inscribed on the walls of the Roman catacombs (Lumen Gentium 50). In addition, Mass liturgies dating from these early centuries of the Church include "Prayers for the Dead."

CHALLENGE TO BECOME “IRON MAN” & “IRON WOMAN”

Mark Allen, a six-time "Ironman" winner and holder of the title "The World's Fittest Man," is married to a retired "Iron woman" triathlete, Julie Moss. Ironman/Ironwoman competitions include a grueling triathlon of swimming, bicycling, and running, designed to push the capabilities of the human body to their limits. To compete as an Ironman/Ironwoman, one must be in superb, all-round, peak physical condition. Mark Allen has devised a 16-week program designed to get a person into a state of "ultimate fitness." Allen also claims that if one follows this complete training regimen for as little as five hours a week, he/she can be transformed from chump into champ. Perhaps more startling is Allen's description of his training regimen as a kind of "meditation" for the entire body. The training regimen includes four components: "heart training" for endurance; "mind training" for attitude; "nutritional training" for internal (what we might call "soul") fitness; and "strength training" for muscle mass.

Thus, Allen has physicalized the Shema mandate given in today's gospel, (Mark 12: 29-30), into a program for shaping and transforming a human being in his/her entirety. When, in the Shema, the Lord God commands, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength," and "you shall love your neighbor as yourself," He reminds Israel and us that a big part of human existence is sheerly physical. It takes a certain amount of brute strength just to get through each and every day. To deny God's presence and love in the physical world would be to remove godliness from our existence. As Christian men and women, we have our own Iron Person to look to as a perfect example of "fitness." Jesus Christ completely embodied the mandates of the Shema – loving His Father, God, with all His heart, mind, soul and strength, then reflecting God's love for Him in loving all He met, His neighbors, the same way. May Jesus coach us as we train in godliness, loving God and neighbor with all our heart, mind, soul and strength.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES ON DEATH

Analysis of death is not for the sake of becoming fearful, but to appreciate this precious lifetime." – Dalai Lama.

"In the midst of death, life persists. In the midst of untruth, truth persists. In the midst of darkness, light persists." – Mahatma Gandhi.

"Our dead are never dead to us until we have forgotten them." - George Eliot, English author.

"We see a hearse; we think sorrow. We see a grave; we think despair. We hear of a death; we think of a loss. Not so in heaven. When heaven sees a breathless body, it sees the vacated cocoon & the liberated butterfly."
- Max Lucado, Christian author and preacher.

HAVE ANY OF YOU EVER EATEN COCONUT?

Maybe you've had coconut sprinkled on a cake, or on some ice cream. The coconut is a very interesting food. Not only can the coconut be used for food, but every single part of the coconut can be used for something. The hard outer shell can be used for making bowls and cups. The oil inside the coconut can be used for cooking. Inside the coconut is also the flaky "meat" part, and a lot of coconut milk. These can be eaten and drunk. The wood of the coconut tree can be used for building things, like houses and tools. And the husk fibers of the coconut tree can be woven into baskets, ropes, rugs, and things like that. Every single part of the coconut tree can be used for something useful.

Have you ever thought of yourself as a coconut? Well, that's how I want you to think right now. You see, this morning we're going to talk about how we can use every single part of ourselves. The Bible says that we should use every single part of ourselves when we love God. In our Bible story today, someone asks Jesus what the most important commandment of all is. And Jesus says the most important commandment is to love the Lord with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength. And He also says that we must love our neighbor as ourselves. So it sounds as though Jesus wants us use every single part of ourselves to love God. Our heart, our soul, our mind, our strength: that's everything. And if we really love God, then we will love Him completely, with everything we've got.

A Stewardship Prayer for our Parish

Generous and loving God, We give thanks to you for the gifts you have given us, our lives, families, friends, time, talent, and material possessions. All that we have comes from you. Help us to remember this and walk in your goodness. Help us on our spiritual journey, so that we may constantly renew our relationship with you in our believing, belonging and becoming the People of God in this Community of St. Matthias. Give us the strength and courage to become better followers and disciples of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

Pray

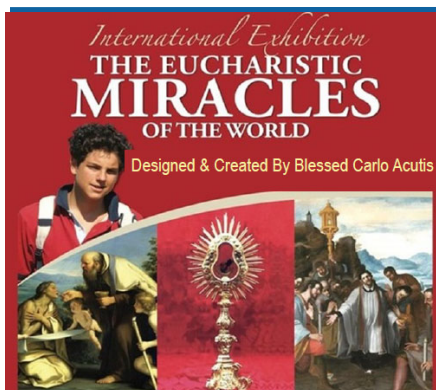


RCIA

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.



Eucharistic Miracles: when Science and Faith Meet

Saturday & Sunday, November 9th & 10th, 2024

Carlo Acutis, beatified by Pope Francis in 2020, created a website which documented Eucharistic Miracles before his death at age 15! Come learn about this millennial's love for Jesus, venerate Carlo's relic and view the 154 exhibition Eucharistic miracle panels! Attend the presentation about his life at 3pm on Saturday Nov 9th too! Open from 10:30 - 4:30 pm Saturday and 9 am - 2 pm Sunday. Presentation 3pm - Sat - Nov 9th.

Our Lady of Peace Church (in the Parish Center)

1740 US Highway 130, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Serve



MORNING OF SERVICE

The next Morning of Service will be held on **Saturday, November 9th**. If you are interested in volunteering that morning, please email **John and Coleen Zdziarski** at jzdzarski@comcast.net. Please note that those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. **The sites are:**

1. **Franklin Food Bank** - 224 Churchill Avenue in Somerset - sorting canned goods, etc. Minimum age is 14. Limited to six people (8:00 - 12:30).
2. **Pregnancy Aid Center** - 59 Thompson Street in Raritan - sorting children's clothing. Limited to eight people (9:30 - 12:00 noon).
3. **Spring Hills - Assisted Senior Living Facility** - 473 DeMott Lane in Somerset - singing patriotic songs under the direction of Joan Best Seamon (10:30 - 11:15 approx.).

October 25, 2024



Dear Father Abraham,

It is with sincere gratitude that we acknowledge your donation of baby wipes & diapers received on 09/03/2024. Please know that your thoughtful gift is more than just a donation; it is a symbol of compassion. It is through the kindness of individuals like you that we are able to make a real and lasting impact on the lives of our clients, providing them with the resources and support they need to overcome challenges and build a brighter future. We are honored to have you as a partner in our efforts and invite you to come and tour The Center and see firsthand how valuable your contribution is to our mission.

With Gratitude,

Noreen Whittemore, Director of Community Relations

Learn



ST. MATTHIAS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM WORKERS NEEDED

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



FAITH FORMATION CLASSES HAVE BEGUN. REGISTRATIONS ARE STILL OPEN.

2024-2025 **GIFT** for K-8 Religious Formation <https://stmatthias.net/faith-formation/>

First Eucharist Preparation 2024-2025 <https://stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/>

Confirmation Preparation 2024-2025 <https://stmatthias.net/confirmation/>



Questions? Please call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400 or email Debbie Schurko, dschurko@stmatthias.net



NEW CYBER THREAT

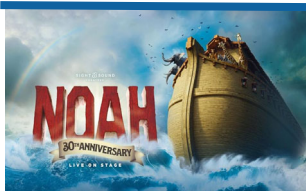
Hello, please be aware of new Cyber threat – Spam bombing. You start receiving a high number of newsletters or contact forms to your email. Then you are contacted pretending to be your IT support or company admin to get on your computer remotely to resolve the issue, then taking over your computer to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

Connect



ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON ZOOM, ON NOVEMBER 13TH AT 2 PM

The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias as Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for individuals living with Alzheimer's or Dementia, their care partners, and others dealing with the disease. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 13th, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Zoom. To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group. For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.



NOAH LIVE ON STAGE The Senior Ministry and St. Martin dePorres Society will once again host a trip to Lancaster, PA to see

Sight & Sound "NOAH LIVE ON STAGE"

Saturday, May 17, 2025

More details, including how to purchase tickets,
can be found at:

www.stmatthias.net/noah

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

OUR TURN TO TALK Documentary & Discussion

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER
505 DEMOTT LANE | SOMERSET, NJ

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

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

Storytelling **SAVES** Lives.

DISCUSSION MODERATED BY SHEILA GILLIN, MSS, LCSW

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

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



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 14 - October 6, 2024 | \$7,978.00 | \$19,597.00 | \$27,575.00 | \$19,602.25 |
| Week 15 - October 13, 2024 | \$14,477.06 | \$20,579.50 | \$35,056.56 | \$34,437.25 |
| Week 16 - October 20, 2024 | \$8,480.45 | \$14,416.50 | \$22,896.95 | \$26,313.25 |
| Week 17 - October 27, 2024 | \$9,003.00 | \$8,525.50 | \$17,528.50 | \$25,964.47 |
| | | | | \$18,512.25 |
| Emusoi Collection: \$6,823 (Sr. Mary Vertucci) | | | Month-to-date Total | October Total Last Year |
| World Mission Sunday Collection: \$6,317.15 | | | \$103,057.01 | \$124,829.47 |
| Hurricane Relief Collection: \$5,648.00 | | | Current Year-to-date Total | Year-to-date as of October |
| | | | \$405,905.46 | \$344,564.53 |

REMINDER!

When we contribute via check, the Chase Bank requires that the checks must be made out to the **“Church of St. Matthias.”** No other variation of this designation will be acceptable due to greater security controls

Stewardship Reflection November 3 , 2024 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“And ‘to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself’ is worth more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices (MARK 12:33)”

Of all the gifts that God gives us, the one He wants the most is our heart. He wants us to share out of our love for Him, not out of obligation. Using our talent in parish ministry and contributing money to support our parish mission is important, but it's more important to spend time in prayer with God daily and discern how He is calling us to be generous with all of our gifts. Not just the visible ones, but the invisible ones like love, mercy and forgiveness.

Reflexiónese – 3 de noviembre de 2024 Domingo 31º del Tiempo Ordinario

“Y amarle con todo el corazón y con todo el entendimiento y con todas las fuerzas, y amar al prójimo como a uno mismo, es más importante que todos los holocaustos y sacrificios.” (MARCOS 12:33)

De todos los dones que Dios nos da, el que Él más quiere es nuestro corazón. Él quiere que compartamos nuestro amor por Él, no por obligación. Utilizar nuestros talentos en los ministerios parroquiales y contribuir con nuestro dinero para apoyar la misión de nuestra parroquia es importante, pero es más importante pasar tiempo en oración con Dios diariamente y discernir como Él nos llama a ser generosos con todos nuestros dones. No solo los dones visibles, sino también los invisibles como el amor, la misericordia y el perdón.



THINK SNOW! THINK CHRISTMAS!

SPREAD THE LIGHT IS COMING!



It is not too soon to begin to think about our “Spread the Light” campaign in December. This is a wonderful opportunity to honor your loved ones, your business, a family milestone or any other celebration or occasion. Last year we lit in excess of 270 trees which brightened our church and spread good will to all our neighbors in Somerset and beyond.

This is the largest fund raiser for the parish. We thank all our past participants and we encourage all parishioners to join in this inspirational, and what is becoming, an honored tradition in our parish and community. Help us “Spread the Light”!

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

www.stmatthias.net/trees

Connecting to Our Local Community



SHRINE OF ST. JOSEPH Navigating FAITH in a Changing World

Saturday, November 9, 2024 9:00 AM

Sunday, November 10, 2024 5:00 PM



In a world where change is constant and the digital age is reshaping how we live, work, and connect, it can sometimes feel like faith is becoming more difficult to navigate. Yet, it is precisely in these times that faith can be our greatest anchor and source of strength. Join us on November 9th and 10th, 2024 at the Shrine of Saint Joseph, Stirling, NJ, for an inspiring and life-transforming event as we explore the profound topic of Navigating Faith in a Changing World. This event is designed to deepen your spiritual life, renew your relationship with God, and offer practical insights on how to live out your faith amidst the challenges and distractions of the modern world.

For more information or to register:

www.oneinthespirit.us/events-1/nov0910-colin-calmiano-retreat-navigate-faith or call the shrine number 908-647-0208

1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ 07980,
shrineofsaintjoseph.com



Catholic
Charities

Be a Champion for Catholic Charities

As a CHAMPION for CATHOLIC CHARITIES, you are a champion in every sense of the word. Through your financial support, you provide a warm bed for someone who is homeless... food for a hungry child... emergency aid for a disaster victim... and help for a family in crisis; all of which truly makes you a champion in our eyes and in the eyes of those we serve. Please join our team today and become a

CHAMPION for CATHOLIC CHARITIES by making a gift or purchasing a raffle ticket.

Go to www.diometuchen.org/champions to make a gift or download a raffle form to purchase a ticket. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Checks should be made payable to Champions for Catholic Charities and mailed to Champions for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, PO Box 191, Metuchen, NJ 08840-0191. Questions may be directed by email to champions@diometuchen.org or by phone to 732-562-2432.



Tuesday, November 12 from 7-9pm

WOMEN'S VOICES IN THE SYNOD: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH presented by Colleen Dulle

This presentation looks at the important role of women in the Catholic Church's Synod on Synodality reform process. It will give an overview of key female participants, highlighting their contributions, and explain the reforms proposed by the synod that concern the changing role of women in the Church. In this talk, Colleen

Dulle explains what the Synod on Synodality means for the future of inclusivity and leadership in the Catholic Church. In Person and Zoom. Colleen Dulle is a multimedia journalist .covering Catholic and Vatican news.

Parish Leadership

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

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

Parish Registration — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. www.stmatthias.net/join-us, or visit the Parish Office.

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

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

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



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