



St. Matthias Parish Office:

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

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

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

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

Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lg Guillen**
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 Mary Jo Loboda, *Parish Staff, Development*,
mjloboda

Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for*
Faith Formation, **dnann**

Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*

Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for*
Music Ministry, **jseamon**

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

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023
 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

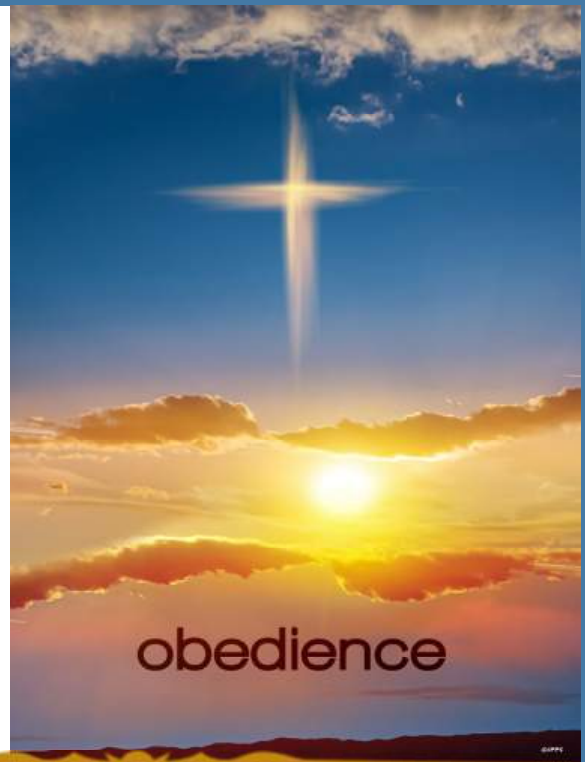
Rosary Altar
 Society
 Meeting,
TODAY

November 5

The Rosary Altar Society will meet today **after** the 10 AM Mass to pray the rosary in the St. John XXIII meeting room in the school.

Light refreshments.

All are welcome.



SMYLE YOUTH GROUP PROJECT

THIS WEEKEND November 4th & 5th,

SMYLE will be collecting the following items

after all Masses:

- * Flour or Cornmeal ,
- * Sugar,
- * Baking Soda,
- * Baking Powder,
- * Vanilla & Cinnamon



Please place all donations in the boxes marked **SMYLE**.

THANK YOU!!!



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

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 5, 2023 - SMYLE Food Collection

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM Rosary Altar Society Mtg. John XXIII Rm
 12:00PM Mass Church
 12:30PM SVDP Thanksgiving Food Distribution - Ruiz Rm & de Porres Rm in the Parish Office
 2:00PM GIFT Church & John XXIII & clsrms

Monday, Nov 6, 2023 St. Leonard of Noblac, Abbot

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

Tuesday, Nov 7, 2023 St. Ernest, Martyr & Abbot

8:00AM Mass Church
 6:30PM GIFT Church, & John XXIII Rm & clsrms
 7:30PM SVDP Mtg. de Porres Rm

Wednesday, Nov 8, 2023 St. John Duns Scotus, Priest

8:00AM Mass, St. Joseph Novena Church
 9:30AM Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit de Porres Rm
 2:00PM Bereavement Group de Porres Rm
 7:00PM Eucharist Ministers Mtg. de Porres Rm
 7:30PM Folk Grp Rehearsal Church

Thursday, Nov 9, 2023 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

SMS dismissal 12:15PM

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

Friday, Nov 10, 2023 St. Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor

8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, Nov 11, 2023 St. Martin of Tours, Bishop

10:00AM Caregiver's Mtg. Ruiz Rm
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, Nov 12, 2023

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass-Sign Language Interpreter Church & Family Mass
 11:00AM Children's Liturgy of the Word K-5 John XXIII Rm
 11:00AM 1st Reconciliation Prep #2 Church & clsrms
 12:00PM Mass Church
 12:00PM SMDP Society Visiting Priest, Fr. Gerard Marable

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,

Veterans Day is coming up in a week! For over 100 years, we have remembered those who served our country in uniform on 11 November – first as Armistice Day, and then, since 1954 as Veterans Day. A few years ago, the Department of Veterans Affairs broadened that tradition of observance and appreciation to include both Veterans and Military Families for the entire month of November. Besides the annual rituals of remembering them with wreaths and visits to their tombs, many organizations celebrate this upcoming weekend honoring the veterans in various ways. Many popular restaurants and other retailers across the nation are giving them free meals, discounts, and other freebies Veterans Day. Some parishes plan to pray the Patriotic Rosary on Veterans Day.

In the context of yet another tragic mass shooting a week ago – this time in Lewiston, Maine - peace and prosperity in our nation is a matter of grave concern and consideration. Every solution that has been proposed will not make our nation safe and secure unless we give priority to spirituality and family life. The profiles of most shooters reveal emotional and mental issues arising from dysfunctional families and mental health. That's all the more reason for us to listen to what our Church has been at pains to promote. These words of Pope Francis, delivered at various events, are worth remembering and practicing:

- ***“The family is the foundation of co-existence and a remedy against social fragmentation.”***

- ***“Every threat to the family is a threat to society itself. The future of humanity, as Saint John Paul II often said, passes through the family. So protect your families! Protect your families! See in them your country’s greatest treasure and nourish them always by prayer and the grace of the sacraments.”***

- ***“We need simplicity to pray as a family; it is very beautiful and a source of great strength! And also praying for one another! The husband for his wife, the wife for her husband, both together for their children, the children for their grandparents...praying for each other. This is what it means to pray in the family and it is what makes the family strong: daily prayer.”***

- ***“Living together is an art, a patient, beautiful, fascinating journey. This journey of every day has a few rules that can be summed up in three phrases which I have already repeated many times to families, and which you have already learned to use among yourselves: May I? Thank you, and I’m sorry.”***

Let us speak about these to our family and thus help every member of our family connect with God and with one another.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: Rom 11:29-36; Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36; Lk 14:12-14

Tuesday: Rom 12:5-16b; Ps 131:1bcd-e-3; Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10; Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9; Lk 14:25-33

Thursday: 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

Friday: Rom 15:14-21; Ps 98:1-4; Lk 16:1-8

Saturday: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Lk 16:9-15

Sunday: Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:2-8; 1 Thes 4:13-18 [13-14]; Mt 25:1-13

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Nov 4	5:00PM	Nancy Collins, by Marty
Sunday, Nov 5	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Sandra Fermin, by The Derkito Family
	12:00PM	Abraham Jacob Mukalel, by Iris Mukalel
Monday, Nov 6	8:00AM	John F. Collins, by Marty Collins
Tuesday, Nov 7	8:00AM	Nicandro Ventura, by Kathleen Referente & Family
Wednesday, Nov 8	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Amelitta Villon, by Flora Sunga
Thursday, Nov 9	8:00AM	Liaukus Family, by Norvila Fammily
Friday, Nov 10	8:00AM	In Memory of Carlos Mallare, by Sister
Saturday, Nov 11	5:00PM	Anna Moran, by Joe, Ginny & Eileen
Sunday, Nov 12	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Julia Nowakowski, by Daughter, Irene
	12:00PM	Genarda Capuno, by The Capuno Family

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at kcoun@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	Marilyn Horvath	Ivette Michel	Sr. Bernadine Marie
Tammy Baskaran	Amanda Isele	Gail Miranda	Stemnock
Tara Capatosto	Baby Elaine Isele	Robert Pellegrino	Tom Szabo
Elizabeth Card	Bill Johnson	Robert Pietrowiak	Jacquelin C. Taylor
Kyle Davidson	Renée Jolly	Randolff Pinard	Anita Vance
Lisa DeFeo	Bill Kelleher	Valerie Polci	Eileen Weber
Zenon DeGuzman	Betsy Kondrat	Kim Price	Nancy Whelan
Marlene DiMaggio	Armando D. Liban	Denise Pultro	Ginette Zamor
Hattie Evans	Mary Lou Littrakis	Doris Regan	Anne Zando
Claudia Gemgnani	John Littrakis	Gabriel Rivera	
Emma Gergely	Denis Loboda	Arina Robinson	And for all who are ill,
Gerry & Jack Gernert	Aries Magali	Maria Schwenzer	homebound, elderly, in
Marie Godet	Al Maglio	Martha "Marty" Shaw	nursing care, or living with
Shelly Greene	Christine Matthews	Amy Shepp	chronic illness, we pray.
Linda Hartong	Ann McElwee	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	

Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo while I asked, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied. 😊

Pass out a sample? A minister who was very fond of pure, hot horseradish always kept a bottle of it on his dining room table. He offered some to a guest, who took a big spoonful. When the guest finally was able to speak, he gasped, "I've heard many ministers preach hellfire, but you are the first one I've met who passed out a sample of it." 😊

After my wife had given birth to our baby, the nurse asked me, "Do you have a name?" I replied proudly, "Yes, Steve!" She squealed, "Awww! That's a lovely name!" "Thanks!" I turned to my wife, and said: "So, what do you think we should call the baby!?" 😊

I've always wanted my dad to be proud of me... It finally happened today. I started serving at a steak house and my parents came in to see me at work. When I asked my dad how he wanted his steak, he said "Well done, son". 😊

My bank is really proud of me. According to them, I have an outstanding balance 😊

I'm so proud of myself, I decided I'm going to stop procrastinating and do something with my life! Starting tomorrow... 😊

Ever since I worked on my extreme arrogance, I've become a better person. Better than all of you together! 😊

A Husband texted his wife: You are negative. Wife texted back: And you are stubborn, arrogant, care about no one but yourself, and in all your life you've not kept even one of your promises. You good for nothing." Husband: I was just letting you know that your Covid test was negative. 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

November is dedicated to the departed ones. We remember those who have died. Death can be scary, especially to children. Honor those you know who have died. Perhaps try a dinner prayer like, "Dear God, we thank you for the life of _____ who taught us to _____. Include pets if you wish.

Marriage Tune-Up



One sure way to turn your beloved off is to let TV trump your spouse as your companion of choice. Instead, if you want to keep him/her on your side: watch a favorite program together, but beware of TV or videos stealing time from playing together.

Our Nation needs Honest Leadership

In Washington, the standards that the Democrats set for the Republicans, they themselves are not willing to live by. And the standards that the Republicans set for the Democrats, they themselves are not willing to live by. Why? Because if you let down your guard for one moment and admit that you are wrong, your political opponents will seize the moment and go for the kill. I am reminded of a story about England's Prince Philip who was toasted at a banquet once with four lines from the poet John Dryden:

"A man so various that he seem'd to be; Not one, but all mankind's epitome.

Stiff in opinions, always in the wrong; Was everything by starts, and nothing long."

I don't know who that person was who quoted that poem to Prince Philip, but he sure got his point across. Washington needs a prophet like that, to step up and expose the abuse, the hypocrisy, the buffoonery.

Jesus was that prophet in his day. He demanded honest leadership. Jesus was saying that leaders must guard against hypocrisy and aim toward humility, set aside greatness and strive

for servanthood, wait for public honors and act now out of duty. Jesus reminded the Pharisees and Scribes, leaders of the people, that they had to practice what they had preached.

Are you a Mosquito or a Honey Bee?

If you think a mosquito is small and has little influence, try sleeping in a hot room at night with but a single blood-sucking insect. Its high-pitched whine and sharp proboscis can leave you sleepy, itchy, and furious. On the other hand, consider the lowly honeybee. One single winged creature lurching from flower to flower can make the heart leap for joy as it brightens your day, spreads pollen about, and makes honey in the hive.

We mortals, not unlike mosquitoes and honeybees, have our own influence. We can be the bane of a room or the blessing of a family. Here in the text, Jesus talks about it all with a group of religious leaders of his own day.

Elephantine massage therapy

The story has been told of a lion who was very proud. He decided to take a walk one day to demonstrate his mastery over all the other creatures. He strutted his way through the forest until he came across a bear, 'WHO IS THE KING OF THE JUNGLE, BEAR?' 'Why of course you are, mighty lion'. He went on until he found the tiger, 'WHO IS THE KING OF THE JUNGLE, TIGER?' 'Why you are, great lion'. Next the lion found the elephant, 'WHO IS THE KING OF THE JUNGLE, ELEPHANT?' The elephant instantly grabbed the lion with his trunk and spun him around a few times and slammed him to the ground. He then stepped on him a few times and picked him up and dunked him in the water and then threw him up against a tree. The lion staggered to his feet and said, 'LOOK, JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET SO UPSET!'

The lion was the one who wasn't getting it. He was missing the truth, just as were many of the scribes and Pharisees and Jewish priests, to whom Jesus gives an elephantine shock treatment in today's gospel.

Acquired situational narcissism.

Someone in our day who has a prideful self-centeredness, we say, has the disease of Narcissism. The name comes from Greek mythology and refers to a handsome young man, named Narcissus, who fell in love with himself. Whenever he would come to a pool of clear water, he would look at his own reflection for hours admiring the view. One day he said to himself, "You are handsome, Narcissus! There's nobody so handsome in the whole world!" He stooped down to kiss his reflection, fell into the water, and was drowned. The prophet Malachi in the first reading and Jesus in today's gospel react strongly against such narcissism among the religious leaders of their times. Even though most of our religious leaders will never be at risk for getting *Acquired Situational Narcissism*, they, too, have the temptation to become overly self-involved. They, too, sometimes imagine minor-league celebrity status for themselves and become prima donnas in the office or at church or in public places.

Today's Scriptures have a strong warning for them. As a prophetic peacemaker, Jesus challenges those who pervert religion into an opportunity to gain personal honor, glory and power. Jesus accuses the scribes and Pharisees of seeking the glory that rightly belongs to God. The real goal of the Pharisees was to dress and act in such a way as to draw attention to themselves instead of glorifying God. In their misguided zeal for religion, they sought respect and honor for themselves rather than for God. They expressed their love of honor in several ways, thereby converting Judaism into a religion of ostentation.



Just get me a battleship then!"

American Humorist Robert Benchley was leaving an elegant salon one evening. As usual he had imbibed excessively. He found himself face to face with a uniformed man whom he took to be the doorman. "Would you get me a taxi, my good man?" he requested. The uniformed man drew himself up proudly. "See here, I happen to be a rear admiral in the United States Navy." Benchley said belligerently, "Just get me a battleship then." In Benchley's condition, the plumage of the admiralty was no different from that of a doorman. Uniforms are important to us, aren't they?

Listen as Jesus describes the uniforms of the Pharisees: They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, 6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues (Mt 23: 5-6). In order to fulfill the instruction, "The commandments of God shall be to you as a sign on your hand, and a memorial between your eyes" (Ex.13:9), the Jews wore tephillin or phylacteries. These were small leather boxes containing four scripture passages, including part of the Shema prayer (Deut 6:4-9), which were strapped on the wrist and the forehead. The Pharisees, in order to draw attention to themselves, not only wore phylacteries, but wore especially large ones in order to demonstrate their obedience to the Law and their exemplary piety. In Num. 15:37-41 and in Deut. 22:12, we read that God commanded his people to make tassels or fringes on the four corners of their garments, so that when they looked at them they might remember the commandments of God and their obligation to keep them. The Pharisees made large, showy tassels meant to draw public attention to themselves.

"All my life I've been a Nobody!"

During the classic time of Greece a terrible thing happened in one of the temples. One night the statue of Zeus was mysteriously smashed and desecrated. A tremendous uproar arose among the inhabitants. They feared the vengeance of the gods. The town crier walked the city streets commanding the criminal to appear without delay before the Elders to receive his just punishment. The perpetrator naturally had no desire to give himself up. In fact, a week later another statue of a god was destroyed. Now the people suspected that a madman was loose. Guards were posted. At last their vigilance was rewarded; the culprit was caught. He was asked, "Do you know what fate awaits you?" "Yes," he answered, almost cheerfully. "Death." Aren't you afraid to die?" "Yes, I am." he answered. "Then why did you commit a crime which you

continued

Reflect

"All my life I've been a Nobody!" (continued)

knew was punishable by death?" they asked. The man swallowed hard and then answered, "I am a nobody. All my life I've been a nobody. I've never done anything to distinguish myself and I knew I never would. I wanted to do something to make people notice me...and remember me."

The need to be recognized, to be appreciated, to have people know your name. It can carry a tragic price tag. They "love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have people call them rabbi" (Matthew 23: 7). The Pharisees liked to be addressed as "Rabbi" and to be treated with a respect greater than that given to parents, claiming that, as religious teachers, they were the ones who gave men eternal life while the parents gave only physical life. They liked to be called 'Father,' as Elisha called Elijah (2Kgs.2:12), and they liked to be known as the fathers of the faith. Jesus insists that the Christian should remember that he has one teacher only -- Christ; and one Father only -- God. In its Aramaic form, the word Abba, "Father," expresses Jesus' unique relationship with God, a sacred name that is every believer's privilege to use by right of Baptism. "Avoid being called teachers." The terms master/teacher apply only to the Messiah, the sole spiritual director and guide of our conscience. In this regard, those who object to calling Catholic priests "Father" should note that Paul and other early Christian writers thought of themselves as fathers to their congregations (1 Corinthians 4:14-15; John 2:18).

The Proud Scientist!

There was once a scientist who discovered the art of cloning himself so perfectly that it was impossible to tell the reproduction from the original. One day, he learned that the Angel of Death was searching for him, so he produced a dozen copies of himself. The angel was at a loss to know which of the thirteen specimens before him was the scientist, so he left them all alone and returned to heaven. But not for long, for being an expert in human nature, the angel came up with a clever device. He said to the scientist and the 12 reproductions before him, "Sir, you must be a genius to have succeeded in making such perfect reproductions of yourself. However, I have discovered a flaw in your work, just one tiny little flaw." The offended scientist immediately jumped out from among his clones and shouted, "Impossible. Where is the flaw?" "Right here," said the angel as he picked up the scientist from among the reproductions and carried him off. [Anthony de Mello, *Taking Flight* (New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1990)].

You will find proud people in every profession and in every faith. It is about such people that Jesus said: They "love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the

synagogues" (Matthew 23: 6). The Pharisees liked to be given the principal places at meals, on the left and on the right of the host. In the synagogue, the front seats actually faced the entire congregation, much as the chair of the priest does in churches today. The Pharisees chose those front seats facing the congregation in the synagogues and conducted themselves throughout the service with an exaggerated piety which the congregation could not fail to notice.

A Proud Officer had to eat his own words!

A newly-commissioned colonel had just moved into his office. A private entered with a tool box. To impress the private, the colonel said "Be with you in a moment, soldier! I just got a call as you were knocking." Picking up the phone, the colonel said "General, it's you! How can I help you?" A dramatic pause followed. Then the colonel said "No problem. I'll phone Washington, and speak to the President about it." Putting down the phone, the colonel said to the private "Now, what can I do for you?" The private shuffled his feet, and said sheepishly, "Sir, they sent me to hook up your phone!"

We need to accept the responsibilities which go with our titles. Are today's readings trying to tell us that there should be no differences among us and we should drop all titles and honors? Actually, all such titles and polite forms are meant to remind each of us of our specific responsibilities in society. Each of us has a name, an identity and a personality. Today's readings remind us that whatever we are and have is not simply a birthright, but a gift given to us by God, a loving Father. Besides, the fruitful use of everything we are and have owes very much to the generosity and care of our loving neighbors for us. St. Francis of Assisi ceaselessly reminded his friars that if they could boast about anything as their own, it was their sins. Hence, let us use everything we are and have in a way that brings glory to God and His family.

Diocesan Cemeteries Announce Pre-planning Promotion from November 1 - 19, 2023.

Please call 1-800-943-8400 for additional information and to schedule an appointment with a Memorial Counselor. Pre-planning discounts will be offered on in-ground burial, mausoleum entombment, and cremation niche options at both Resurrection Catholic Cemetery in Piscataway, and Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in East Brunswick/Jamesburg. Payment plans and financing options are available to fit every budget.

**Pre-planning is a gift to your loved ones.
Call 1-800-943-8400 today to set up an appointment.**

From the Pastoral Staff



As we begin the month of November, our St. Matthias Music Ministry enters into its busiest but most joyful time as we prepare for the upcoming Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe and the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

We invited new members to join us in September and I am happy to say that we have 4 new Folk Group members and 2 new Sunday Choir members.

And we have a new father / daughter cantor team - Manny Moreno and his daughter Zacari.

Our children's Choir is almost 50 strong with 8 new 3rd graders.

Our Christmas repertoire includes a brand new composition

by our composer in residence Chris Rath. It's called **On This Night** and we will sing it for the first time at Midnight Mass.

Our Folk Group is learning a new Christmas anthem **Dear Little Babe**. It was suggested and donated by one of our members in memory of her high school choir director Mr. Ed Krogstad who passed away last year. Ed was also my choir director at St. Peters High School. He was a wonderful musician and mentor.

So the only way we could be better prepared is if YOU joined us for the season. Think about it/ pray about it. It's not too late to make this the most wonderful time of the year...

Joan Seamon, Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music



Pray



BAPTISMAL BIB MINISTRY

With the passing of our ministry leader Mary Ann Vetter, I have been tasked with trying to find out who else, besides myself, is currently sewing Baptismal bibs. I was given all the necessary materials to make the bibs from Mary Ann's daughter. If you are currently a member of the Baptismal Bib Ministry or are interested in becoming a member, please send an email to Debbie Lanyi, mdlanyi@comcast.net

I thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration to join this meaningful ministry that embraces the newest members of St. Matthias.

This Week Is National Vocation Awareness Week!

From the St. Matthias Vocations Ministry



National Vocation Awareness Week is an annual week-long celebration of the US Catholic Church dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer and education. The US Bishops

encourage all Catholics to prayerfully ask God for more priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women, that they may be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of vocation. Let us also encourage our youth to consider the priestly and religious life as a noble and important vocational choice, and let us support and counsel those who are hearing this call from God.

At the same time, this week provides all of us an opportunity to reflect on our own call to Christian vocation – to prayerfully discern God's unique plan for us, who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do to help bring about his kingdom of peace and justice here on earth. Whether it be by way of our family life, our occupations, community involvement, charitable initiatives, church ministry work, or other service efforts, we ask God to help

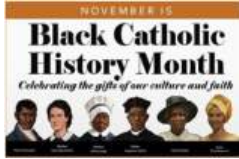
us discern where our vocation lies and inspire us to pursue that vocation.

Prayer for Priestly and Religious Vocations: Lord, we know the harvest is rich, but workers are scarce. We believe that you continue to call men and women to do your work in this world as priests and religious. We pray that these men and women may open their hearts to your will and have the courage to go where you lead. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Personal Vocations: O God, who enlightens the minds and inflames the hearts of the faithful by the Holy Spirit, grant that through the same Spirit we may know our true vocation in life and may have the grace to follow it faithfully. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For more information on National Vocation Awareness Week: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/national-vocation-awareness-week> *"Where the needs of the world and your talents cross, there lies your vocation."*

Connect



JOIN THE ST. MARTIN DE PORRES SOCIETY FOR OUR PARISHWIDE LITURGY TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH AND THE FEAST OF ST. MARTIN DE PORRES (NOVEMBER 3RD)
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 – NOON MASS, FEATURING OUR SUNDAY ADULT CHOIR AND THE UMOJA IMANI CHOIR. WITH FR. GERARD MARABLE PRESIDING



Father Gerard C. Marable was named pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Galloway in July 2020. Father Marable, 64, ministered in Camden City parishes for 20 years. He was born in Atlantic City and he studied at Xavier University, New Orleans, and Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, N.Y. He was ordained May 28, 1988, in Saint Joseph Pro-Cathedral, Camden, by Bishop George H. Guilfoyle.



GOOD NEWS!! The deadline for Our Christmas Tree Campaign has been extended!!!

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!! Our annual Christmas Tree "Spread the Light" campaign is in full swing! We would like to thank all of the parishioners and friends of the parish who have already arranged for their trees. If you have not sponsored a tree yet --**GOOD NEWS!! The deadline has been extended!!!** There are both Personal and Business forms in the back of the church and on the website. You can either pay at the parish office, through Parish Giving, or by placing a sealed envelope marked 'Trees' in the collection basket during mass. Don't miss out on honoring a loved one, friend, business, or group! Join in this wonderfully moving tradition that helps support our church and brings joy to so many. Help us to 'Light the Night' here in Somerset! But, don't wait, numbers are limited, get your request in now!

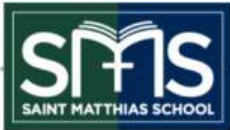
For more information about this campaign and to order a tree, please visit: www.stmatthias.net/tree

Learn

SAINT MATTHIAS SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER

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

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



SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

PREK3 - 8TH GRADE

Please send your resume to: mlynch@stmattias.net
<https://www.stmatthias.info/> 732-828-1400



Looking for a Chess Club Facilitator for Grades 3-8 at St. Matthias School

If anyone is interested in facilitating a Chess Club for grades 3-8. Please Contact Principal Mary Lynch at 732-828-1402 <https://www.stmatthias.info/>



From the Parish Office - Important Bulletin Information

- All bulletin requests **MUST** be received by **9:00 a.m.** the Monday prior to that weekend's bulletin. Exceptions cannot be made for late - arriving material. Early submissions are always best! Holiday accelerated printing schedules require a modified deadline, items may be publicized in advance if submitted early.
- Requests must be submitted as you would like them to appear. All requests are considered, however, they are subject to editing, and their publication in specific bulletins is not always guaranteed.
- Please be brief. Preferably 300 words or 1800 characters (including spaces) or less. (ie: Who, What, Where, When, Why, Contact Information).
- Requests must be emailed to the following persons: **Fr. Abraham**, **Nathalie Godet**, and **Leslie Guillen** to ensure proper communication as well as to ensure all the necessary information is received prior to the submission deadline.
Email addresses can be found on the cover of every bulletin.

Serve



ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT VIRTUAL GROUP MEETS ON November 8th at 2:00 PM

The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias 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, October 11th, from 2:00 pm-3:00 pm on Zoom.**

Registration is required.

To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group. For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.

Dear Cherished Parishioners:

On behalf of the **St Vincent de Paul Society at St Matthias**, I would like to thank you for your most generous donations to our ministry, which normally have enabled us to serve those in great need who live in Franklin Township and the surrounding communities. When a donation is made, in the poor boxes throughout the church or in an envelope marked SVDP and placed in the collection basket, your funds go toward paying rent arrears, making a security deposit on a new apartment, or toward utilities to maintain or restore service. We also provide our neediest clients and their families with extra food and gift cards for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Your donations save numerous neighbors from homelessness every year, sometimes as late as the day the client is to be locked out of their home, losing all the possessions within.

At present there is an onslaught of evictions due to post-pandemic increases in rents, while current increases in the cost of living exceed wages. Our neighbors must work even harder to avoid eviction, keep the lights and heat on, and to feed their children. At the current rate, which doesn't appear to be letting up, we could be out of resources by year's end. You can help by setting up a monthly donation to Parish Giving or a direct payment to our ministry from your bank account. Please access our website (www.SVDPatSM.org) for more information on giving.

Our clients are humbled and very grateful for all that we can do for them, giving them a fresh start after months of worry and struggle.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family,
Jeanine Valenti, SVDP HelpLine Coordinator and Case Lead



MORNING OF SERVICE



The next Morning of Service will be held on **Saturday, November 11th**. 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 Township Food Bank - 224 Churchill Avenue in Somerset - sorting canned goods, etc. Minimum age is 14. Limited to six people (8:15 - 12:00 noon).
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 Somerset - Assisted Living - 473 DeMott Lane in Somerset - singing patriotic songs to the residents under the direction of Joan Best Seamon (10:00 - 10:45).

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 - October 1, 2023	\$10,843.00	\$8,759.25	\$19,602.25	\$20,588.35
Week 11 - October 8, 2023	\$8,822.00	\$25,615.25	\$34,437.25	\$34,356.78
Week 12 - October 15, 2023	\$10,198.00	\$16,115.25	\$26,313.25	\$22,628.25
Week 13 - October 22, 2023	\$13,602.00	\$12,362.47	\$25,964.47	\$25,162.75
Week 13 - October 29, 2023	\$10,148.00	\$8,364.25	\$18,512.25	\$18,454.95
			Month-to-date Total	October Total Last Year
			\$106,317.22	\$121,191.08
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Octo-
			\$1,807,504.61	\$1,773,894.31

Stewardship Reflection November 5, 2023 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." - Matthew 23:12

The world celebrates people in the spotlight and those who have the most of everything. We think celebrity, money and possessions is the key to happiness. Yet, our world is filled with more loneliness, anxiety and depression than ever before. The key to a happy life is relationship. Relationship with God and each other. Trust is the foundation of any good relationship and humility is the seed of trust.

Reflexiónese 5 de noviembre 2023 Domingo 31º del Tiempo Ordinario

"Porque él que a sí mismo se enaltece será humillado y él que se humilla será enaltecido." - MATEO 23:12

El mundo celebra a las personas que están en el centro de atención y a aquellas que tienen más de todo. Pensamos que la celebridad, el dinero y las posesiones son la clave de la felicidad. Sin embargo, nuestro mundo está más lleno que nunca de soledad, ansiedad y depresión. La clave de una vida feliz son las relaciones. La relación con Dios y la relación entre nosotros. La confianza es la fundación de cualquier buena relación y la humildad es la semilla de la confianza.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The parish office is in need of volunteers Monday - Friday mornings. If you have some free time, please contact Mary Pat in the parish office, (732) 828-1400. Thank you for all you do for St. Matthias.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council: Co-Chairs: Frank Rees Frees814@gmail.com Marilyn Wegg mcw-wam@comcast.net	Co-Secretaries: Stephen Busono sbusono@gmail.com Bill Isele t33sm@aol.com Al Drabnis Didi Molano	Sheila Tartaglia Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio Trustees: Pearl Scott Marge Richards	Parish Finance Council: Kester Hector, Chair Finance Council @stmatthias.net Carmen Driz-Mellini Barry Dusault Gwen Orlovski	Audrey Francis Joan Pritchard Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
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About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

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

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

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

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



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



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