



St. Matthias Parish Office:

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

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

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time



TODAY,

October 1st, 2023

we celebrate the
**Blessing of
the Animals.**

Join us at
**1:00 P.M. in
the parking lot,
after the
12PM Mass.**



obedience



WELCOME TO THE TEACHING MASS

TODAY, October 1st at 12 Noon Mass
and/or
Tuesday, October 3, 6:30 PM in the Church
All Are Welcome!

Join a St. Matthias Small Faith Group Today!

See page 9 for all details.



PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition October 28-29. (See page 5)
Eucharistic Presentation on October 18th (See page 7)



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME
QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.
OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE THIS
MONDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 2, 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, Oct 1, 2023

School Annual Fund Collection

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Mtg.	John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Blessing of the Animals	Outside
2:00PM	GIFT	Church & St. John XXIII Rm

Monday, Oct 2, 2023 The Guardian Angels

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

Tuesday, Oct 3, 2023 St. Theodora Guerin, Foundress of Sisters of Providence, Indiana Martyrs

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

Wednesday, Oct 4, 2023 St. Francis of Assisi, Stigmatist & Founder

8:00AM	Mass—St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm
1:30PM	SMS Feast of St. Francis Prayer Service	
	7th Grade	Church
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

Thursday, Oct 5, 2023 Maria Faustina, Apostle of Divine Mercy

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, Oct 6, 2023 St. Bruno of Cologne, Mystic & Founder of Carthusian Order

SMS –No School, & SMS Teacher PD

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

Saturday, Oct 7, 2023 Our Lady of the Rosary Fall into Faith Registration Begins on-Line

10:00AM	Senior Ministry Breakfast Mtg.	Cafeteria
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass - Hispanic Heritage	Church

Sunday, Oct 8, 2023

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass –Interpreter & 1st Reconciliation	
	Prep #1	Church
11:00AM	1st Reconciliation Prep #1	John XXIII & Classrooms
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by **8 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,

October is Respect Life Month, promoting respect for human life in light of our intrinsic dignity as having been created in God’s image and likeness and called to an eternal destiny with him. This year, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities invites Catholics to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Respect Life Month by embracing “radical solidarity” with women facing difficult or challenging pregnancies. St John Paul II, who coined the term “radical solidarity” in reference to the care owed to vulnerable pregnant women, said: *“In firmly rejecting ‘pro-choice’ it is necessary to become courageously ‘pro-woman,’ promoting a choice that is truly in favor of women. ... The only honest stance, in these cases, is that of radical solidarity with the woman.”* While our efforts must remain strong to end legalized abortion, it is our responsibility as Catholics to surround mothers in need with life-giving support and personal accompaniment.

Today is Respect Life Sunday, when thousands will join the Life Chain which is a peaceful, prayerful demonstration in opposition to abortion, other attacks on human life, and an end to all violence. Pro-life individuals throughout the USA and Canada will join the National Life chain in about 2000 cities. We can get more info at www.Lifecchain.org. In our area, the Life Chain will be held in Somerville, along Somerset Street, anywhere from the corner of Route 206 down to Veteran’s Memorial Hwy. The Life Chain continues up Mountain Avenue past Immaculate Conception Parish. Everyone is welcome to join. Our newly commissioned Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) had its first meeting recently and it was decided that important matters discussed by the PPC concerning the parish should be communicated to the parishioners. Accordingly, the Co-Secretaries of the PPC have prepared a report that you can read elsewhere in this bulletin.

One of the matters you will see therein is about having a basketball court for our students. It is sad that ours is the only parish that I know without a parish gym nor a basketball court for our school students to play. Some of our parents, through our Principal Mary Lynch, proposed the idea of a basketball court without any enclosure in our parking lot so that our students could play in a junior school-level court. After consulting with the PPC and the Property Management Committee, I have happily agreed to have this long-felt need for a basketball court without any enclosure so that the present parking spaces will not be lost. Thanks to the parents who have come forward to sponsor this project.

Today we have the Blessing of animals, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi who showed us the right attitude of care for all of God’s creatures. Francis had pets, a lamb, a pheasant, a rabbit, a cicada, a dog, and a wolf! He was as polite and considerate to an earthworm, a slug, a bird, a beetle, or amole, as amusedly tolerant, understanding and warmly loving as one would be to one’s brother and sister. Indeed, he addressed them as his brothers and sisters! I look forward to seeing a variety of pets brought to be blessed as in the past years.

Your brother in Christ.

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Zec 8:1-8; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mt 18:1-5, 10

Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23; Ps 87:1b-7; Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8; Ps 137:1-6; Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19:8-11; Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9; Lk 10:13-16

Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69:33-35, 36-37; Lk 10:17-24

Sunday: Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Sep 30	5:00PM	Reno Dominic, by Mercy Gabriel
Sunday, Oct 1	8:00AM	Angel & Merla Isabelo, by Reena Reyes
	10:00AM	Blessings for Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, by School Sisters of St. Francis
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Oct 2	8:00AM	Jane Matera, by Jody Martinelli
Tuesday, Oct 3	8:00AM	Brazil Vidal, by Kathleen Referente & Family
Wednesday, Oct 4	8:00AM	Darrie Christmas, by Wife, Dolores
Thursday, Oct 5	8:00AM	Hilda Javelosa, by The Derikito Family
Friday, Oct 6	8:00AM	Jose Alomia, by The Capuno Family
Saturday, Oct 7	5:00PM	Bill Murphy, by The Murphy Family
Sunday, Oct 8	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Mary & Eugene Sullivan, by Mary & Family
	12:00PM	James Weber, by Eileen Weber

Pray for those who are sick...

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

Carolyn Banghart	Baby Elaine Isele	Gail Miranda	Jeff Sullivan
Tammy Baskaran	Amanda Isele	Robert Pellegrino	Tom Szabo
Tara Capatosto	Bill Johnson	Randolff Pinard	Mary Ann Vlaud
Elizabeth Card	Renée Jolly	Valerie Polci	Eileen Weber
Kyle Davidson	Betsy Kondrat	Kim Price	Nancy Whelan
Lisa DeFeo	Armando D. Liban	Denise Pultro	Anne Zando
Zenon DeGuzman	Mary Lou Littrakis	Doris Regan	
Hattie Evans	John Littrakis	Gabriel Rivera	And for all who are ill,
Claudia Gemgnani	Carol Ann Loftus	Arina Robinson	homebound, elderly, in
Emma Gergely	Joseph Lubrano	Maria Schwenzer	nursing care, or living with
Gerry & Jack Gernert	Aries Magali	Amy Shepp	chronic illness, we pray.
Marie Godet	Al Maglio	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	
Linda Hartong	Ann McElwee	Sr. Bernadine Marie	
Marilyn Horvath	Ivette Michel	Stemnock	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Paul Saint-Aime, father of Johanne Rateau

Barbara Butler

Cenon DeGuzman, brother of Alma Valdez

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



I bought my sons a pet rabbit after they promised they would take care of it. As expected, I ended up with the responsibility. Exasperated, one evening I said, "How many times do you think that rabbit would have died if I hadn't looked after it?" "Once," my 12-year-old son replied. 😊

Dave's parrot was always using bad language, so he asked the vet how he could stop it. "Every time the bird swears, put it in the freezer for 15 seconds," advised the vet. The next time the parrot uttered an expletive, Dave did as the vet said. Then, feeling guilty, Dave opened the freezer. Shivering, the parrot came out saying, "I'm sorry for all the bad language I've been using." Dave was astounded at the sudden change. Then the parrot said, "By the way, what did the chicken do?" 😊

Baby Snake : Are we poisonous? Mother Snake: I don't know. Why? Baby Snake: I just bit my lip. 😊

At a workshop on dog temperament, the instructor noted that a test for a canine's disposition was for an owner to fall down and act hurt. A dog with poor temperament would try to bite the person, whereas a good dog would lick his owner's face or show concern. Once, while eating pizza in the living room, I decided to try out this theory on my two dogs. I stood up, clutched my heart, let out a scream and collapsed on the floor. The dogs looked at me, glanced at each other and raced to the coffee table for my pizza. 😊

The drive-up window at the bank where I'm a teller has an outside drawer to accept customer transactions. A woman once drove up with her dog in the front passenger seat, and the pet eagerly jumped over onto the driver's lap when the car reached my window. He looked excited to see me. "Your dog is so friendly!" I said to the owner. "Yes because he thinks he's at McDonald's," she replied. 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

What is fair? Children often complain that a parent, a sibling, or playmate is not being fair - and it may be true. Life is not always fair. Talk with your child about a time when they had an advantage or disadvantage. Share how you cope when something unfair happens.



Marriage Tune-Up

Must Agree #1. In marriage, there are certain things that you can "agree to disagree" on and others that you absolutely must agree upon. For example, you must agree that your marriage is a top priority and you will do whatever you need to do to strengthen it.

St. Francis of Assisi: A Reflection



While it is commonly known that St. Francis of Assisi was a lover of both creation and the Creator, his role as a grassroots environmentalist is often surprisingly underplayed in biographical synopsis of his life which center mainly upon his profound journey of faith.

Decreed the Patron Saint of the Environment/ Ecology and of Animals, Francis' latter life was not only an unblemished model of religious devotion, but an exemplary paragon of harmonious existence on Earth. He was a friend to man and beast, an admirer of the sun and of nature, and a peace-maker in every sense of the word.

Francis was not merely at peace with his fellow man – he was at peace with all living things, everything beautiful that his eyes could behold. He wrote hymns of praise to his God for the creations he felt so blessed to behold, and he wrote poems to his "Brother Sun" and "Sister Moon," even repeatedly praising his "Sister Death" upon his deathbed – as he felt so much at one with creation that he considered the sun his brother, the moon, his sister, all men his siblings.

Francis felt compelled to reach out to the voiceless, the

rejected, and the needy. He embraced and assisted lepers, whom, at the time, were outcasts of society, their skin condition causing them to be feared. He visited hospitals and cared for the sick. He sent food to thieves. He befriended women and recognized their abilities and their intelligence, a concept foreign in that time.

Yet again, his allegiance did not only lie with human beings. He was deeply committed to the well-being of the environment and of all of creation in as grass roots a fashion as has ever been seen. He lived with animals. He rejoiced amongst nature. He preached to the birds to remind them to praise their Creator for the blessings they had. He tamed a wild wolf and made it one of his many pets. Yet, he understood the plight of nature and the circle of life, albeit brutal at times. Despite, he felt that his Creator would not create evil, and hence, everything around him was good and accordingly, should be treated with courtesy and kindness and generosity, from the earthworm to the lamb, the cicada to the wolf. It is perhaps because they recognized his genuine sincerity towards their existence that the animals felt so drawn to him as well. (Claudia Herrera Hudson)

Reflect

Prayer of St. Francis: We all can use Daily

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Are you a well-intentioned Procrastinator?

A certain nurse won the admiration of her entire community with her patience, her cheerfulness, her genuine concern for others. She gave far more of herself than anyone could ever expect. Her salary was inadequate by any standard, and one day a physician friend spoke to her about that. "Nurse," he said, "Why don't you get out of this backward little community and go where they will pay you a decent salary. God knows you are worth it." With a smile she answered kindly, "If God knows I'm worth it, that's all that matters to me."

Does God know you are worth it? Are you an indignant protestor or a well-intentioned procrastinator? Many of us are either. God needs laborers for the vineyard. Can He count on you? Can you pass the test of availability, sensitivity and accountability to Him?

Jesus presents two sons in this parable as he does in the parable of the Prodigal Son. The first son is asked to go into the vineyard, but he says "No." He later changes his mind and goes. The second says "Yes, sir," but does not go. Jesus then asks his listeners which of the two did the father's will. They answer, "The first", and their correct answer strengthens Jesus' case against them. The message of the story is crystal clear. There are two very common classes of people in this world. First, there are those like the parable's first-asked son, whose practice is far better than their profession. Second, there are the people like the second-asked son, whose profession is much better than their practice. While the first class should be preferred to the second, neither is anything like perfect, because the really good man is the man in whom profession and practice meet and match. The ideal son in this parable would be one who accepted the father's orders with grace and respect and who unquestioningly and fully carried them out as Jesus did his Father's orders.

On the two Sons in the Parable of Jesus: It isn't about how the journey starts, it is about how it ends!

The great wit, C. S. Lewis, started out a doubter. He saw British Christianity as a pale and bloodless business. It did not excite him. In fact, to his reasoned, calculating way of thinking, Christianity made very little sense. It smelled of superstition and made promises about the future he was sure it could not make good on. But C. S. Lewis came to see that he was missing something. He began to slide into a cynicism about life that frightened him. He wanted something to believe in. Someone who was on the Christian pilgrimage helped him to see that there was room for him in the parade. Not suddenly, but rather quietly, unobtrusively, Lewis came into the Christian camp. We know the rest of the story: He became a great intellectual apologist for Christianity, writing and speaking to confound the critics of the Faith. He was the reverse of Ralph Vaughan Williams, taking on the critics of the Christian faith in Britain in a series of radio broadcasts which became enormously popular among a population growing steadily more indifferent to Christ. A similar story can be told of Malcolm Muggeridge, a British thinker who in later life came to see that the Christian Faith made far more sense to him than clinging to agnosticism. He, like Lewis, became an apologist for Christianity. He said "yes" to the invitation, after he first had said "no." It isn't how the journey starts that counts. It's how it ends that matters.

Through selfless and humble love, two "outsiders" are able to bridge chasms of distrust and greed and tear down walls of race and class, creating a "United Kingdom" of God's justice, compassion and peace. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus shatters labels and stereotypes in order to uphold the sacred dignity of all men and women in the eyes of God. Christ calls us to move beyond our own contemporary version of the designations of "tax collector" and "prostitute" to recognize, instead, the holiness that resides within the soul of every person, who is, like us, a child of God.



Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

The Eucharistic Miracles Display is a museum-like exhibition featuring the Eucharistic Miracles as chronicled by Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006). Blessed Carlo was a teenager from Italy who developed a website dedicated to the documented and scientifically scrutinized occasions when the Holy Eucharist changed in its physical appearance, reminding us that the bread and wine of the Mass truly become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. **This Exhibit will be set up in the cafeteria here at St. Matthias on the weekend of this month: October 28-29. Everyone is invited to visit this unique exhibition after every Mass.**

Communication Gap!!!

A father once tried to talk to his son about how college was going: The father said, "How are things going?" The son said, "Good." The father said, "And the dormitory?" He said, "Good." The father said, "How are your studies going?" He said, "Good." The father said, "Have you decided on a major yet?" He said, "Yes." "Well, what is it?" asked the father. The son said, "Communication." So it goes as parents and children try to talk to each other.

So it was for the two sons in Jesus' story. This parable teaches us that promises can never take the place of performance, and fine words are never a substitute for fine deeds. In other words, the parable clearly teaches that the Christian Way is in performance and not promise, and that the mark of a Christian is obedience, graciously and courteously given. We are not supposed to say "yes" to God on Sundays and "no" to God on week days. God doesn't want polite but hypocritical words, for that isn't obedience at all. "Merciful and quick to forgive," God tolerates willful, even blasphemous disobedience, provided repentance follows. God remains faithful, always ready to receive repentant sinners. He never abandons us even when we abandon Him.

"They couldn't keep him out of the line-up!"



Baseball fans are familiar with the accomplishments of baseball great Cal Ripken, Jr. Ripken entered the sports history books when he played a record 2,632 consecutive baseball games. That's a major feat; most players miss a game here or there because of injuries or a need to rest their bodies. Ripken didn't get injured less than any other player, and he doesn't need less rest. But Ripken earned national respect because he played on in spite of injuries or exhaustion. As he says, "I want to be remembered as an iron man, a player who went out there and put it on the line every day. I want people to say, "They couldn't keep him out of the lineup." (Selling Power, June 6444, p. 30).

That would be a good epitaph for any of us: "They couldn't keep him out of the lineup." Today's Gospel story about the two imperfect sons challenges us to have Cal Ripken's dedication in Christ's service.

Good Intentions are not enough!

There was an example of someone with good intentions in *Life* magazine. His name was Goold Levison. He was a photographer and an inventor. In the early days of photography, cameras were large, stationary and slow, hardly conducive to shooting candid photographs or what Levison called "instantaneous pictures." So he and his partner George Bradford Brainerd invented their own camera, which they patented in 1885 as the Brainerd-Levison Hand Camera. The pair took the camera along on outings to the New Jersey shore, to Canadian forests and, most often, to scenic spots near their homes in Brooklyn. Their partnership ended with Brainerd's death in 1887 at the age of 41. That same year, Levison invented a camera that could take a series of pictures in rapid succession. It was a real breakthrough. Unfortunately, the distractions of family concerns and other projects kept him from completing the paperwork to patent his invention. This delay cost him his shot at immortality. In 1891, Thomas Edison also invented a camera that would take pictures in rapid succession but it was he, not Levison, who patented the motion picture camera. Goold Levison intended to patent his own camera. We can be sure of that. There were other pressing matters, though, and he never got around to it.

Good intentions. It's a shame good intentions are not enough. We would all be millionaires if they were. The second son in Jesus' parable had such good intentions, but no actions. We often use flimsy excuses to silence our conscience. They run like this: "We didn't realize how sinful we were"; "We were too occupied with family and personal cares to have time for our spiritual duties"; "We were led astray by bad example"; "We didn't like to be different from others"; "We were going to put things right." These are not valid excuses at the judgment seat of God. Hence, if we have been disobedient to God in our past life, we need to knock at the door of God's mercy. We need to remember that what God in his mercy did for the tax-collectors and harlots in the parable, the Matthews, the Augustines, the Margarets of Cortona, and the millions of unknown penitents who are now Saints in Heaven, He can also do for us. We need to repent of our past sins and renew our lives as the first-asked son in the parable did. It is never too late for us to be transformed.

September Baptisms

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in September. We support them with prayers and ask their parents to nurture them so they can grow to be faith-filled people of God, and our parish community.

Arianna Amoultgu Azuga

Astrid Valentina Fe Querijero Daliva

Estella Belle Londono

Antonella Thais Mesia

Luca Rapuluchi Nwankwo



From the Pastoral Council

The first meeting of the newly commissioned Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) was held on 9/19/2023 in the Parish Office. It began with an opening prayer using the 'Lectio Divina' method with shared reflections on the gospel of the upcoming Sunday. We wish to share with the parish community some significant matters of discussion

Welcome to Fr. Lancelot McGrath: the PPC warmly welcomed Fr. McGrath to the parish community and, in particular, to the PPC, and wished him happy stay and ministry with us.

Update about the Eucharistic Revival plans: there will be a "Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition" on the weekend of October 28-29 in the cafeteria; a series of three "Eucharistic Presentations" are planned, with the first one to be held on October 18 at 7 pm in our John 23rd Conference room.

60th Anniversary Projects update: now that the new bathroom is completed, the old bathroom renovation is in the plans. With the leaking pipes, this is the perfect time to repair them and spruce up the old bathroom. The church floor is cleaned and looks very bright. The two adoring angel statues have brought a greater sense of reverence towards and around the Tabernacle. The deep cleaning of the church walls is in the planning.

Basketball Court for our school students: Mary Lynch, our School Principal had approached Fr. Abraham regarding a basketball court. This being a worthwhile and much needed

cause, a committee was assigned by the PPC during our previous meeting, to study the feasibility of having the basketball court in the parking lot. They, together with representatives of the Property Management Committee, met with the Principal and the Athletic director and presented their findings to the PPC. All were in favor of the idea and so recommended to the pastor to permit a non-enclosed BB court for the use of our school without losing any parking space. A column protector for the new post will make it more visible and prevent any possible accident. Also having a few "Private Property/No Trespassing" signage near the court will be needed to ensure liability protection.

Update about the Live-streaming/media upgrade in the church: Two of our parishioners, Jeff Beck and Joe Mancuso, have been working with Fr. Abraham on this project. Thanks to the good will of these two parishioners who put in countless hours of hard work to investigate, explore, compare and finalize what is best for our church, much progress has been made and we are hopeful to have this project completed in the near future, despite the many unavoidable delays.

The Council concluded with a short prayer.


From the PPC Co-Secretaries Stephen Busono and Bill Isele.

Pray

**All Health and Mental Health
Care Professionals**

Save The Date

You are invited to the BLESSING of the HEALING HANDS in celebration of the feast of St. Luke, author of the gospel and "Beloved Physician"



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22ND
12PM MASS
ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH
170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873

Sponsored by the Vocation Ministry of the Parish of St. Matthias

"Where the needs of the world and your talents cross, there lies your vocation"

EUCCHARISTIC PRESENTATION SERIES

One of the goals of the Eucharistic Revival is to have a 'robust formation' to understand the meaning of the Holy Eucharist. For this purpose, our Eucharistic Revival Committee is organizing a series of presentations on the Holy Eucharist. The first of these is scheduled for **October 18th, Wednesday 7 p.m.** Please save the date. More information will be coming soon.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT VIRTUAL GROUP MEETS ON 10/11 AT 2 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.

The Group provides a safe and supportive environment and offers dementia-related education, emotional support, and connections with resources so that the group members may enhance their lives in the midst of the journey. For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.

Connect

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 Mgt. 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

CRAFT FAIR DONATIONS

We are in need of new items such as toys, gifts, gift cards and cash donations to help us fill baskets for the basket raffle fundraiser at the SMS Craft Fair on Sunday, December 3rd, 2023. Please send donations to the Office by Monday, November 27th.

The poster has a decorative border with green leaves and red berries. The text is in a mix of red and green fonts.

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

The poster features a background of a wooden table with various holiday-themed items like a small Christmas tree, ornaments, and wrapped gifts. The text is in red and black fonts.

Learn



HISPANICS AND THEIR CATHOLIC FAITH

National Hispanic Heritage Month, which began on Sept. 15, celebrates U.S. Latinos, their culture and their history. Started in 1968 by Congress as Hispanic Heritage Week, it was expanded to a month in 1988. The celebration begins in the middle of September to coincide with independence days in several Latin American countries: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica celebrate theirs on Sept. 15, followed by Mexico on Sept. 16, Chile on Sept. 18 and Belize on Sept. 21.

Catholics remain the largest religious group among Latinos in the U.S., but they have become a smaller share of the Latino population over the past decade. In 2022, 43% of Latinos adults identify as Catholic, down from 67% in 2010. Meanwhile, 30% of Latinos are religiously unaffiliated (describing themselves as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular”), up from 10% in 2010.

The Hispanic Catholics revitalize parishes and keep cities alive, clinging to their faith in God, family and church, which they see as a fiesta, according to Auxiliary Bishop Evelio Menjivar of the Archdiocese of Washington. He sees Latin American immigrants as the recipients of a wealth of culture, religion, traditions and ancestral wisdom, and as the heirs of that wealth: "We are not only talking about a historical legacy of the past but what we are today and what we can contribute from our Hispanic heritage to the rest of society and to the future."

(To Be Continued)

Connect



“Our Christmas Tree Campaign is Under Way”

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 signed up to sponsor a tree, please consider doing this soon. The cutoff date to sponsor is **October 13th**. There are forms in the back of the church and on the website. You can either pay at the parish office or through Parish Giving. 300 trees have been ordered so don't miss your chance to honor a loved one, celebrate your family and or business, and generally “light the night” here at St. Matthias. The Deadline to Order Your Tree is October 13th. Join in this wonderfully moving tradition that helps support our church and brings joy to so many. Flyers are also available in church and on our website.

For more information this campaign and how to order a tree, please visit:

www.stmatthias.net/tree

Join a St. Matthias Small Faith Group Today



Make **Fall Into Faith 2023** the **Best Season of the Year!**

Start for the **first time** or continue with a **St. Matthias Small Faith Sharing Group!**

We have about **15 groups** that meet on various **days/times of the week.**

If you are **new** to this experience, please sign up at:

<https://forms.gle/fGjZMhRL6VnQjdXg8>

Facilitators will be contacting group members who have been part of their group. Each group likely will be meeting either on Zoom or in person usually on the same date/time. Groups will begin the week of **October 15!** **New members, please sign-up by October 7!** Most groups will be using the same resource.

SENIOR MINISTRY MEETING

All Seniors are invited to gather in the cafeteria-Saturday, October 7, at 10:00 AM

A light breakfast will be available, followed by prayer: **“A Reflection on Autumn Days”**, **reading and discussion of Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister's: Blessings of Aging, and future events.**

Also, please sign up for the bus trip to Lancaster to see “Sight and Sound, Daniel, Live on Stage” as soon as possible... see website for details....

If you plan to attend our Senior Meeting, please contact: Sr. Marie Therese, msherwood@stmatthias.net

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

If you are experiencing the recent loss of a loved one, you are invited to a 7-week session, where you will find support, comfort, and healing. The group meets on Wednesdays, Oct 18 & 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15 & Dec. 6. And, Tuesday, Nov. 21.(Due to Thanksgiving on Thursday.) All meetings are from 7:00-8:30 PM at the Parish Office, de Porres Meeting Room . (Please park around the back of the office to enter de Porres room door).

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023 Contact: Sr. Marie Therese, msherwood@stmatthias.net

LAZARUS MINISTRY MEETING



All Lazarus Ministers are invited to meet for prayer, sharing, and updating on our Ministry:

Date: **Thursday, October 12th**

Time: **10:00 - 11:30 am**

Place: **Parish Office DePorres Room** (please park around the back of the office to enter the DePorres Room door).

The main focus of the Lazarus Ministry is to be a supportive presence to grieving families at funeral Masses and wakes. For more information about this ministry please contact: Sr. Marie Therese -- msherwood@stmatthias.net

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 - September 3,	\$10,492.00	\$13,772.25	\$24,264.25	\$25,148.37
Week 11 - September	\$7,215.31	\$24,373.75	\$31,589.06	\$41,228.22
Week 12 - September	\$12,399.75	\$11,825.25	\$24,225.00	\$21,587.45
Week 13 - September	\$7,371.50	\$11,514.25	\$18,885.75	\$19,659.25
			Month-to-date Total	September Total Last
			\$98,964.06	\$107,623.29
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Sep
			\$1,701,187.39	\$1,652,703.23

Stewardship Reflection October 1, 2023 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Do nothing out of selfishness; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves...” Philipians 2:3

Pride and ego are hard things to control. We see how others act or dress and think we are superior to them. We idolize our own self-image. But, if we truly believe everything is a gift from God, we recognize all the people that God has put in our lives as gifts! We are grateful for how they enrich our lives. Pray every day for the people in your life: your family, your friends and those who make you angry.

Reflexiónese 1 de octubre 2023 Domingo 26º del Tiempo Ordinario

“No hagan nada por rivalidad ni orgullo. Sean humildes y cada uno considere a los demás como más importantes que sí mismo...” - Filipenses 2:3

El orgullo y el ego son difíciles de controlar. Vemos como se visten o actúan los demás y pensamos que somos superiores a ellos. Idealizamos nuestra propia imagen. Sin embargo, si realmente creemos que todas las cosas son dones de Dios, reconoceremos como regalos a todas las personas que Dios ha puesto en nuestras vidas. Estamos agradecidos por la forma en la que enriquecen nuestras vidas. Ore cada día por las personas de su vida: su familia, sus amigos y por aquellos que lo hacen enojar.



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 FinanceCouncil @stmatthias.net Carmen Driz-Melilli 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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