



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, **lguillen**
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, OCTOBER 20, 2024

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Mission Sunday



**TODAY IS
WORLD
MISSION
SUNDAY.**

**THERE
IS A
SECOND
COLLECTION**

Be selfless



© JPPC



**Join Us for
Morning Reflection
With
Rev. Hank Hilton
Next Saturday,
October 26th at 9 AM.**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Details on page 7



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME
QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.
OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING,
OCTOBER 21, 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.

Sunday, Oct 20, 2024

World Mission Sunday Collection

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, Oct 21, 2024 St. Hilarion the Great, Abbot

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

Tuesday, Oct 22, 2024 St. John Paul II, Pope

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:30PM	Handbell Rehearsal	Church

Wednesday, Oct 23, 2024 St. John of Capistrano, Priest

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, Oct 24, 2024 St. Anthony Mary Claret, Archbishop & Founder of the Claretians

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Lazarus Ministry	de Porres Rm
3:30PM	Children's Choir, Gr. 3&4	Church
4:00PM	Children's Choir Gr. 5-8	Church
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

Friday, Oct 25, 2024 40 Martyrs of England & Wales

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	SMS-Trunk or Treat	Parking Lot
Rain Date-10/27 2-5PM		

Saturday, Oct 26, 2024 St. Evaristus, Pope & Martyr

8:00AM	Parish Reflection Day	School Building
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

Sunday, Oct 27, 2024

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:00AM	K of C Pancake Breakfast	Cafeteria
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Prayer & Discernment for Vocations	John XXIII Rm

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,

Today is World Mission Sunday, organized by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. It is a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to reflect on our own baptism, when we received the gift of faith, and recommit ourselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice.



Pope Francis explains the theme of this year's World Mission Sunday in these words: "The theme I have chosen for this year's World Mission Day is taken from the Gospel parable of the wedding banquet (cf. Mt 22:1-14). After the guests refused his invitation, the king, the main character in the story, tells his servants: "Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find" (v. 9). Reflecting on this key passage in the context of the parable and of Jesus' own life, we can discern several important aspects of evangelization. These appear particularly timely for all of us, as missionary disciples of Christ, during this final stage of the synodal journey that, in the words of its motto, "Communion, Participation, Mission", seeks to refocus the Church on her primary task, which is the preaching of the Gospel in today's world."

Pope Saint John Paul II has also spoken of the Propagation of the Faith's General Fund of support: "The offerings that will be collected [on World Mission Sunday] are destined for a common fund of solidarity distributed, in the Pope's name, by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith among the missions and missionaries of the entire world."

I have shared with you my own life as a missionary in the State of Nagaland, in the remote north-eastern part of India for many years. Every year the needs of the Catholic Church in the Missions grow. The missionaries - priests, religious men and women, lay men and women missionaries - continue to give themselves in many countries, especially in the remote areas where poor people live. Our own parishioner, Sr. Mary Vertucci, a Maryknoll missionary, is a prime example of such a committed missionary who is working tirelessly for the good of the poor girls through the Emusoi Center in Tanzania which we support as a parish.

Many adult conversions are taking place in the missions, new dioceses are formed, new seminaries are opened because of the growing number of young men hearing Christ's call to follow Him as priests, areas devastated by war or natural disaster are rebuilt, and other areas, long suppressed, are opening up to hear the message of Christ and His Church. That is why the involvement and commitment of Catholics from around the world is so urgently needed. Offerings from Catholics in the United States, on World Mission Sunday and throughout the year, are combined with offerings to the Propagation of the Faith worldwide.

Please read, in today's bulletin or on our parish website, the letter of our Bishop James Checchio, explaining the importance of this Day. And let us not forget that we can and need to be missionaries to our own people right here. One very easy way to do that is to practice the theme that Pope Francis has set: "Go and invite" others to the Banquet of the Lord. Why not give a simple invitation to our family members or friends to worship with us?

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday Eph 2:1-10 Ps 100:1B-2, 3, 4AB, 4C
-5 Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday Eph 2:12-22 Ps 85:9AB-10, 11-12, 13
-14 Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday Eph 3:2-12 Is 12:2-3, 4BCD, 5-6
Lk 12:39-48

Thursday Eph 3:14-21 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12,
18-19 Lk 12:49-53

Friday Eph 4:1-6 Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Lk
12:54-59

Saturday Eph 4:7-16 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4AB, 4CD
-5 Lk 13:1-9

Sunday Jer 31:7-9 Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
Heb 5:1-6 Mk 10:46-52



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, October 19	5:00PM	Frances De Franzo & Barbara Butler, by Frank & Joanne Inzano
Sunday, October 20	8:00AM	Martin Slyman, by Nora & Nestor Mercado
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Bistitacion Stanford & Leonida Torres, by the Family
Monday, October 21	8:00AM	Firefighter, John Collins, by Dad
Tuesday, October 22	8:00AM	James Mc Garry, by John & Barbara Cooney
Wednesday, October 23	8:00AM	Al Maglio, by Ralph & Barbara Moreno
Thursday, October 24	8:00AM	Jennifer Brown, by Mom & Dad
Friday, October 25	8:00AM	Susan & James Shinnors, by Mary
Saturday, October 26	5:00AM	Sr. Amata, by Vinnie & Ethel
	5:00PM	Paul Jason Vergel, by Vergel Family
Sunday, October 27	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Al & Julia Nowakowski, by Daughter, Irene
	12:00PM	Jonathan, Oliver & Julius Brewster, by Judith James

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.

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

Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

David Benenati

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



George Bernard Shaw was once asked in what generation he would have preferred to live. The witty Irishman replied: "The age of Napoleon, because then there was only one man who thought he was Napoleon. 😊"

Definition of a power struggle: When your boss has the power and you have the struggle 😊

A supervisor's comment on an employee evaluation. He's never been very successful. When opportunity knocks, he complains about the noise. 😊

Two friends were talking in a bar. The first man asked how the other fellow was doing. "I've been better" the second man answered. "I left my job because of illness and fatigue." "Sorry to hear that," the first man responded.

A little girl walked up to a clown at a country fair who was creating balloon animals. "What are you making?" she asked. He sighed and said, "Just minimum wage" 😊

"What happened?" The second man replied, "My boss got sick and tired of me." 😊

"I demand a raise," a man told his boss, "Three other companies are after me." His boss replied, "You've got to be kidding me. What other companies are after you?" The man answered, "The electric company, the telephone company, and the gas company." 😊

"A good leader motivates their team, a great leader motivates them with the smell of fresh coffee."

I told the IT guy I needed an eight-character password. He suggested Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

"Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant." (Mark 10:43) Kids naturally like to be first, the boss, to be served. Ask your kids if they'd be willing to turn the tables for 1 day or 1 hour? They might serve a parent food, wash your feet, bring you the paper, etc.

Marriage Tune-Up



Do something unexpected for your beloved today that shows you appreciate them. For example, Place a love note in their briefcase or computer bag; Take a selfie and send as a message; Say, "I appreciate you because..."

A Pearl of Wisdom For This Week

Do You Know Why God Created Gaps between Fingers?
So That Someone Who is Special To You Comes And Fills Those Gaps,
By Holding Your Hand Forever...

SERVICE MAKES US A JOYFUL FAMILY!

A happy family is the result of true sacrifice and humble service. The husband and wife sacrifice convenience, comfort, and time. There can be no success without sacrifice. We are challenged to drink the cup of Jesus by laying down our lives in humble and sacrificial service for others, just as Jesus did. **How can the** family members serve one another humbly and joyfully? Given below are some models of what different members of the family might say to each other especially in our family relationships:

Child to parents/caregivers: Help me to hear and to answer you when you call; I won't pretend I did not hear because I would rather play!

Teen to parents/caregivers: Bother me with your requests for help, even while I'm on the phone with my friends!

Young and older parents/caregivers to child and teen: Forgive me when I am defensive because I hear an answer which challenges my intellect.

Young adult to parents/caregivers: Challenge my attitude that "I know better because I am now a grownup;" I will pay attention to your opinions.

Middle aged parent to senior parent: Be patient with me as I am patient with you as we face difficult decisions together.
Senior parent to whole Family: Forgive my "Been there, done that" attitude; let me offer my wisdom freely and respectfully.

"I DISCOVERED THAT SERVICE IS JOY!"

It may sound unbelievable, but it is true that Asia's first Nobel Prize winner in Literature (1913), Rabindranath Tagore, was behind the three great national anthems of three nations, viz. Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. He was also the first non-Westerner to win the Nobel Prize in literature. He did so in 1913. He wrote this short poem: *I slept and dreamt that life was Joy; Then I awoke and realized that life was Service.*

And then I went to work - and, lo and behold, I discovered that Service is Joy.

Today's Gospel teaches us that true happiness comes from surrendering ourselves completely in humble service to God through Christ. And all we need is a servant's heart, mind, eyes and touch. So, "How's Your Serve?"

WE CAN SERVE BY SUFFERING...!!

In today's Gospel, Jesus connects service with suffering. Suffering and service go hand in hand. First, service always involves suffering because one can't help another without some personal sacrifice. Second, God always invites those who suffer to put their suffering at the service of others by uniting it with the salvific suffering of Jesus. Third, we must learn to be sensitive to the suffering of those around us. One way to cultivate this sensitivity is to focus on the needs of others rather than on our own needs. Another way is through prayer, as explained in St. Francis of Assisi's famous Prayer for Peace.

"I WISH EVERY CHILD COULD SAY THE SAME!"

In his book, *Hide or Seek*, James Dobson tells of a time when John McKay, the great football coach at the University of Southern California, was interviewed on television, and the subject of his son's athletic talent was raised. Son John was a successful player on his dad's team. Coach McKay was asked to comment on the pride that he felt over his son's accomplishments on the field. His answer was most impressive: "Yes, I'm pleased that John had a good season last year. He does a fine job, and I'm proud of him. But I would be just as proud if he had never played the game at all." Dr. Dobson goes on to say this: "Coach McKay was saying, in effect, that John's football talent was recognized and appreciated, but his human worth did not depend upon his ability to play football. John's place in his dad's heart was secure, being independent of his performance. I wish every child could say the same." (quoted by William J. Varnos, First Presbyterian Church, Elkhart, Indiana, "What Happens When You're Not Number One?", *Pulpit Digest*, p. 6551). In today's Gospel Jesus warns James and John that what is important is not higher positions but willingness to do humble service.

SERVANT LEADER IN A SERVING COMMUNITY

In his book, *Dr. George Burns' Prescription For Happiness: Buy Two Books and Call Me in the Morning*, George Burns writes: "If you were to go around asking people what would make them happier, you'd get answers like a new car, a bigger house, a raise in pay, winning a lottery, a face-lift, more kids, less kids, a new restaurant to go to. Probably not one in a hundred would say a chance to help people. And yet that may bring the most happiness of all. I don't know Dr. Jonas Salk, but after what he's done for us with his polio vaccine, if he isn't happy, he should have that brilliant head of his examined. Of course, not all of us can do what he did. I know I can't do what he did; he beat me to it. But the point is, it doesn't have to be anything that extraordinary. It can be working for a worthy cause, performing a needed service, or just doing something that helps another person." [George Burns, *Dr. George Burns' Prescription for Happiness*, (New York, NY, USA: Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, 1984), p. 141] We need lots of people like those George Burns was describing -- Dr. Salk and others like him who saw a need and tried to fill it. They were living a servant life. **In our passage of Scripture for today, we find James and John wanting to race ahead of the others and jump into prime positions in the kingdom of God. But Jesus saw through their little ploy. So he corrects them by connecting service with suffering. Suffering and service go hand in hand. First, service always involves suffering because one can't help another without some personal sacrifice. Second, God always invites those who suffer to put their suffering at the service of others by uniting it with the suffering of Jesus. Third, we must learn to be sensitive to the suffering of those around us. One way to cultivate this sensitivity is to focus on the needs of others rather than on our own needs. Another way is through prayer, as explained in St. Francis of Assisi's famous Prayer for Peace.**

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way." -John C. Maxwell

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

"As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others." - Bill Gates

"A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be." -Rosalynn Carter

"I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles, but today it means getting along with people."
-Mahatma Gandhi

"DAD, YOU JUST TREATED THE JANITOR AND THE PRESIDENT ALIKE!"

James Moore tells about a man named George. George was a peacemaker with a big heart and wonderful sense of humor. George claimed he was, "so tenderhearted that he cried at supermarket openings!" Everyone at Church loved George. He was respected at the hospital where he worked. The reason so many people loved George was because he was always kind and always respectful to everyone he met. His children vividly remember the days George spent in the hospital before he died. The president of the hospital paid him a visit. He and George talked like they were old friends. A couple of minutes later one of the janitors came to visit. And they spoke like they were old friends. When the janitor left, one of George's children said to him, "Dad, did you realize that you treated the president of the hospital and the janitor just alike?" George smiled, chuckled and said, "Let me ask you something, if the president left for two weeks and the janitor left for two weeks, which one do you think would be missed the most?" Then George called his children around his bed. "Let me show you something I carry in my pocket all the time, even when I mow the lawn." George pulled out a pocket-sized cross and a marble. George said, "On the cross are written these words, 'God Loves You,' and on the marble are these words, 'Do unto Others as You Would Have Them Do unto You.' The cross reminds me of how deeply God loves me, and the marble reminds me of how deeply God wants me to love others." [James W. Moore, *When All Else Fails* (Nashville: Dimensions for Living, 1993), p. 78.] ***That's A SERVANT'S HEART. That's the Heart Jesus wants us all to have as we seek to serve Him and become more and more like Him each day by giving Him our heart. To become an authentic disciple of Jesus means to put ourselves in the humble, demanding role of servant to others, to seek intentionally the happiness and fulfillment of those we love regardless of the cost to ourselves. The best place to begin the process of "self-giving" service is in our own homes and in the workplace. We have to look upon our education, training, and experience as preparation for service to others. Whatever may be our place in society -- whether important or unimportant -- we can serve. We should learn to serve with a smile. This is possible whether we are in military service, social service, law, medical service, government or business. We get chances to serve others every day- nurses serve their patients, teachers their students, parents serve the needs of their children, and spouses serve each another. In our parishes, we are also called to serve not to be served. We can here apply the famous "ask not" of John Kennedy: "Ask not what your parish, what your Church,***



your God can do for you; rather ask what you can do for your parish, for your Church, your God!" If we want to be leaders, we must learn to be available, accountable, and vulnerable. This triad --- availability, accountability, and vulnerability --- qualifies us for what Robert Greenleaf has called Servant Leadership. "Life becomes harder for us when we live for others, but it also becomes richer and happier." —Albert Schweitzer

TRUE LEADERSHIP IS SERVICE

When the great Japanese Christian Kagawa first heard about the life of Jesus, he cried out, "O God, make me like your Christ!" To be more like Christ, Kagawa left a comfortable home and went to live in the slums of Tokyo. There he shared himself and his possessions with whoever needed help. In his book *Famous Life Decisions*, Cecil Northcott says that Kagawa once gave away all his clothing. He was left standing in only a tattered kimono. On another occasion, even though deathly sick, he continued to preach to people in a rain, repeating over and over: "God is love! God is love! God is love! Where love is, there is God." William Barclay gives us an insight into the heart and mind of Kagawa when he quotes the great man as saying: "God dwells among the lowliest of men.. He is there with beggars. He is among the sick, he stands with the unemployed. Therefore let him who would meet God visit the prison cell before going to the temple. Before he goes to church let him visit the hospital. Before he reads his Bible let him help the beggar."

We are invited to servant leadership: We are a community of equals and we share in the responsibilities of being community. In order to be effective, we need leaders – both ordained, as ministerial priests, and lay. These servants have been raised up from among us to call us to order, to be the ground on which the rest of us can move around, refining our lives as followers of Jesus. We need leaders who will help us to form a relationship that will assist us to become what we must be in order to wash one another's feet. We require leaders to call us to the ways of social justice. We need leaders who tie us to other communities and groups who share similar values. Finally, we need leaders who can break open the word for us, who can lead us in our prayer, offering us on the altar, and who can draw us together as sacrament. No one of us possesses all that we as a community need. Our job as servant leaders is to evoke, to recognize, to nurture, to celebrate and to help unify the gifts of the Holy Spirit here in our community.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

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October 2024

Helping the Church where it is young, suffering and threatened

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we gather in communion this World Mission Sunday, I extend to you a heartfelt invitation from Pope Francis, inspired by the Gospel: "Go and invite everyone to the banquet (cf. Mt 22:9)." This call to mission resonates deeply with our faith's core, urging us to share God's love with the world.

Over a century ago, our own Catholic community in the United States was nurtured through the generosity of the worldwide Church that contributed to what is today this second collection. Now, we are called to extend that same generosity to our brothers and sisters in over 1,150 mission territories across Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and the Middle East.

The collection on World Mission Sunday directly supports seminaries, future religious sisters, catechists, Catholic schools that provide essential education, and healthcare centers that provide essential care, embodying the love of Christ.

As members of the Catholic Church, which is universal by its very nature, we are invited to participate actively in this mission. Our contributions and prayers on World Mission Sunday support the Church's vital work of evangelization, inviting all to experience the joy and hope found in Christ.

I urge you, dear friends, to respond generously to this call. Let us unite in prayer for the success of the Church's missionary activities and for the missionaries who dedicate their lives to spreading the Gospel. Your generosity is a powerful witness to the love and compassion at the heart of our faith.

May this World Mission Sunday deepen our commitment to the Church's universal mission. Together, let us rejoice in the opportunity to share God's love with the world, inviting everyone to the banquet of the Lord. Be assured of my prayers, gratitude and love for you and please remember to pray for me!

With renewed best wishes, I remain

Yours in Christ,


Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen



MORNING REFLECTION

Everyone is invited to attend a wonderful presentation by Rev. Hank Hilton, a dynamic speaker. It will be here at St. Matthias (school Building) on Saturday, October 26th at 9 AM. Prior to his ordination, Fr. Francis "Hank" acquired four Masters Degrees - from Fordham NY, Loyola Chicago, Boston College and Harvard respectively. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and then began a 15 year career as an Economics professor at Loyola Baltimore. Father worked as an Energy Economist at Texaco.

Father Hank's youngest sister, Judith, was born with Down syndrome. Her influence steered him into many forms of service at the Arc of Monmouth where he served as Board President from 2018 to 2020 and was awarded the Countess Buxhoeveden Award, the Arc's highest honor for those who support its mission.

After his ordination to priesthood in 1992, Fr. Hank has served in several parishes in Wisconsin & Maryland, as well as at St. Francis Cathedral Parish in Metuchen. In addition, he has taught in a variety of settings including colleges and universities, high schools and prisons. Currently, Father Hilton is pastor of St. Joseph's parish in Hillsborough, NJ and is a visiting professor of economics at Rutgers. Do not miss this inspirational talk.

All are welcome.

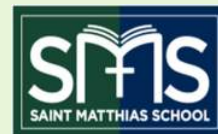
Learn



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

Connect



Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus will hold a Pancake Breakfast next **Sunday, October 27, from 8:00am - 12:00 Noon** in the school cafeteria. Proceeds from the breakfast will benefit the St Matthias Knights of Columbus council and the charities they support.

Breakfast menu is pancakes, eggs, sausage, bagels, juice, coffee and much more.

We hope to see you there!



Make Fall Into Faith 2024 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/7D2CnG8ZcBTJuSfC7>

YOU CAN STILL JOIN SMALL GROUPS

As you know, Small group sharing is about to begin. Aren't you curious why so many of our parishioners are in small groups? Don't you want to know what motivates them to commit six weeks in this busy Fall season to gather in small groups? Have you ever wished you were more connected to our parish community? Do you long for ways to connect your faith with your life, especially when faced with so many challenges in your personal and family life?

The answer to all these is Small faith communities because these provide an opportunity for parishioners to get to know one another better in a unique, comfortable, and casual setting; these help participants deepen their faith and integrate it more fully into their work and relationships. Sharing life stories with each other gives concrete examples of God's grace in our lives. **So, why not try this small group experience? Just attend one of the many groups. Different groups meet different days of the week, so you have the choice according to your schedule!**



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

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			\$0.00	\$26,313.25
Week 17 - October 27, 2024			\$0.00	\$25,964.47
				\$18,512.25
			Month-to-date Total	October Total Last Year
			\$62,631.56	\$124,829.47
			Current Year-to-Date Total	Year-to-date as of October 31, 2023
			\$365,480.01	\$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 October 20, 2024 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (MARK 10:45)

If you held a mirror up to your life, would it reflect God’s love and mercy? If you are struggling with this, try changing your attitude from “I want more” to “thank you God for everything you have given me, I have enough to share”. This change in perspective will bring you joy through service to others. Pray daily to become less self-centered and to become more God-centered.

Reflexiónese –20 de octubre de 2024 Domingo 29° del Tiempo Ordinario

“Así debe ser, porque el Hijo del hombre no vino para que le sirvan, sino para servir a los demás y entregar su vida en rescate por muchos.” (MARCOS 10:45)

Si usted pusiera un espejo frente a su vida, ¿podría reflejar el amor de Dios y su misericordia? Si usted está luchando con eso, trate de cambiar su actitud de “Yo quiero más” a “gracias a Dios por todo lo que me ha dado, tengo suficiente para compartir”. Este cambio en perspectiva traerá alegría a través del servicio a los demás. Recé diariamente para convertirse en menos egocéntrico y más centrado en Dios.



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



Immaculee's Story of Faith, Hope and Forgiveness

Monday, October 28 from 7- 9 PM

11th Annual Major Speaker: Immaculee Ilibagiza

Immaculee Ilibagiza survived the 1994 Rwandan genocide by hiding in a 3ft. x4ft. bathroom for 91 days with seven other women. Come hear about the importance of faith, hope and forgiveness. In person and Zoom. The program will take place in Mercy Hall at Mount Saint Mary (under the chapel) for those participating in person.

\$25 per person; free for students 908-753-2091 or www.msmhope.org

ST. HELENA'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

November 2nd 9am – 3pm

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jvento@georgian.edu. We look forward to getting to know you and talking about your interest in studying theology.



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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.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Stephen Busono

sbusono@gmail.com

Bill Isele

t33sm@aol.com

Co-Secretaries:

Didi Molano

Sheila Tartaglia

Teresa Yannotta

Joe Percoco

Miles London

Fr. Lancelot McGrath,
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Pearl Scott

Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair

Finance Council

@stmatthias.net

Carmen Driz-Melilli

Barry Dusault

Joan Pritchard

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
Ex-Officio

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

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

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

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

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

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



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

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