



**St. Matthias Parish Office:**

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

**Mass Schedule (in person):**

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

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

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

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

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

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

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 22, 2023**  
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Enjoy the**  
**Knights of Columbus**  
**Pancake Breakfast**  
**TODAY**  
**in the school cafeteria.**

**Adults, \$10.00**  
**and**  
**\$5.00 for ages 11-18**  
**children under 10, free.**



**JOIN US NEXT WEEKEND!**



**Eucharistic Miracles**  
**Exhibition**

**October 28 - 29**

See page 7 for details



**THE ST. MATTHIAS 2024**  
**MASS INTENTIONS BOOK IS OPEN**  
**AT THE PARISH OFFICE DURING**  
**OFFICE HOURS.**



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND**  
**SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE**  
**EUCCHARISTIC LORD.**  
**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE**  
**THIS MONDAY EVENING,**  
**OCTOBER 23, 2023 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

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

The Church is open for individual prayer

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

**Sunday, Oct 22, 2023 World Mission Sunday**

**K of C Pancake Breakfast—7:00AM Cafeteria**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 10:00AM Mass –Sign Language Interpreter Church  
 12:00PM Mass - Blessing of Hands for Healthcare workers Church  
 3:30PM SMYLE Youth Group Cafeteria

**Monday, Oct 23, 2023 St. John of Capistrano, Confessor**

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

**Tuesday, 24, 2023 St. Anthony Mary Claret, Archbishop & Founder**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 6:30PM SMS Finance Mtg. de Porres Rm  
 7:30PM Handbell Choir rehearsal Church

**Wednesday, Oct 25, 2023 40 Martyrs of England & Wales**

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

**Thursday, Oct 26, 2023 St. Evaristus, Pope**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 3:30PM Children’s Choir Rehearsal Gr. 3&4 Church  
 4:00PM Children’s choir Rehearsal Gr. 5-8 Church  
 6:30PM SMS, SAC Mtg. de Porres Rm  
 7:30PM Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal Church

**Friday, Oct 27, 2023 St. Teresa Eustochio Verzeri, Foundress**

**SMS Dismissal at 12:15PM**

8:00AM Mass Church

**Saturday, Oct 28, 2023 Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles & Martyrs**

**Pulpit Talk by K of C**

**Eucharist Exhibition Sat/Sun All Day**

11:30AM Notre Dame Mass/Fr. John Gordon Church  
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church  
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

**Sunday, Oct 29, 2023 Eucharist Exhibition All Day**

**Pulpit Talk by K of C**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 10:00AM Mass –Sign Language Interpreter Church  
 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](mailto: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,

Today is World Mission Sunday. It is our chance to show love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters overseas who share our faith. In offering our prayers and donations, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News. Pope Francis has a beautiful message for this occasion. Let me quote just two paragraphs:

*For this year’s World Mission Sunday, I have chosen a theme inspired by the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus, in the Gospel of Luke (cf. 24:13-35): “Hearts on fire, feet on the move”. Those two disciples were confused and dismayed, but their encounter with Christ in the word and in the breaking of the bread sparked in them the enthusiastic desire to set out again towards Jerusalem and proclaim that the Lord had truly risen. In the Gospel account, we perceive this change in the disciples through a few revealing images: their hearts burned within them as they heard the Scriptures explained by Jesus, their eyes were opened as they recognized him and, ultimately, their feet set out on the way. By meditating on these three images, which reflect the journey of all missionary disciples, we can renew our zeal for evangelization in today’s world.*

*The image of “feet setting out” reminds us once more of the perennial validity of the missio ad gentes, the mission entrusted to the Church by the risen Lord to evangelize all individuals and peoples, even to the ends of the earth. Today more than ever, our human family, wounded by so many situations of injustice, so many divisions and wars, is in need of the Good News of peace and salvation in Christ. I take this opportunity to reiterate that “everyone has the right to receive the Gospel. Christians have the duty to announce it without excluding anyone, not as one who imposes a new obligation, but as one who shares a joy, signals a beautiful horizon, offers a desirable banquet” (Evangelii Gaudium, 14). Missionary conversion remains the principal goal that we must set for ourselves as individuals and as a community, because “missionary outreach is paradigmatic for all the Church’s activity” (ibid., 15). (It is very easy to google and read the full message of the Pope).*

I myself had many beautiful experiences as a missionary priest in the Diocese of Kohima in the north-eastern Indian state of Nagaland, prior to my coming to the USA. Being one with the simple folks in their own struggles gave me so much contentment. Living with minimum conveniences in the mission lands (no regular power, no heating during winter, no running water, etc.), I was happy to join other missionary priests, nuns, catechists, and parish leaders to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to those who were eager to know the truth of the Catholic Church. I’m sure our Fr. Lancelot also will have many beautiful missionary experiences to share with us.

How wonderful that we have missionaries coming from different countries to St. Matthias to make the Mission Appeal (as part of the Missionary Cooperation Plan of our Diocese) each year. We have been very generous in our financial support of the Missions. Let us do the same on this World Mission Sunday. In a world where so much divides us, let us rejoice in our unity as missionaries through our Baptism, as it offers each one of us an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor and marginalized in more than 1,111 mission dioceses.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

Monday: Rom 4:20-25; Lk 1:69-75; Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18; Ps 124:1b-8; Lk 12:39-48

Thursday: Rom 6:19-23; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 12:49-53

Friday: Rom 7:18-25a; Ps 119:66, 68, 76-77, 93-94; Lk 12:54-59

Saturday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16

Sunday: Ex 22:20-26; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40



## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Oct 21</b>	5:00PM	Firefighter John Collins, by Dad
<b>Sunday, Oct 22</b>	8:00AM	Wilmer Reyes, by The Ostrom Family
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Eleanor Morehouse, by The Morehouse Family
<b>Monday, Oct 23</b>	8:00AM	Maria Teresa Chiado, by Mary & Louis Nepote
<b>Tuesday, Oct 24</b>	8:00AM	Jennifer Brown, by Mom & Dad
<b>Wednesday, Oct 25</b>	8:00AM	Susan & James Shinnars, By Mary
<b>Thursday, Oct 26</b>	8:00AM	Sr. Amata Shina, by Vinnie, Ethel & Mary
<b>Friday, Oct 27</b>	8:00AM	Brendlyn Alcindor, by Anne Marie Francis
<b>Saturday, Oct 28</b>	5:00PM	Tom Healy, by Joyce & Family
<b>Sunday, Oct 29</b>	8:00AM	Rose Marie LaTorre, wife, by her husband, Tony
	10:00AM	Helen Jago, by Lynne Finan & Family
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners

## Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at [kcounts@stmatthias.net](mailto:kcounts@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	Randolff Pinard	<a href="#">Jacquelin C. Taylor</a>
Kyle Davidson	Renée Jolly	Valerie Polci	Mary Ann Vlad
Lisa DeFeo	Bill Kelleher	Kim Price	Eileen Weber
Zenon DeGuzman	Betsy Kondrat	Denise Pultro	Nancy Whelan
Marlene DiMaggio	Armando D. Liban	Doris Regan	Anne Zando
Hattie Evans	Mary Lou Litrakis	Gabriel Rivera	
Claudia Gemgnani	John Litrakis	Arina Robinson	
Emma Gergely	<a href="#">Denis Loboda</a>	Maria Schwenzer	
Gerry & Jack Gernert	Aries Magali	Amy Shepp	
Marie Godet	Al Maglio	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	
Linda Hartong	Ann McElwee		

**And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.**

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Ermina Tagaan



# Reflect



## Smile with Your Family



A father was trying to teach his fifth-grade son the value of tithes and offerings. The boy listened attentively, and then he went on to say, "I still don't understand why you have to pay taxes." To this the father replied, "Because the Bible says we must give unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar and unto God what belongs to God." His son looked puzzled. "That's what I'm trying to tell you, Dad. Caesar died a long time ago." 😊

In Las Vegas people can tithe by dropping casino chips into the offertory. And at the end of each weekend, there is a Brother that goes around to all the casinos to cash them out and make a deposit. He's called the Chip Monk. 😊

Two men were marooned on a deserted Island. One man paced back and forth worried and scared while the other man sat back and was sunning himself. The first man said to the second man, "Aren't you afraid that we are about to die?" "No," said the second man, "I make \$100,000 a week

and tithe faithfully ten percent of my salary to my church every single week of the year. I guarantee you...my Pastor will find me!" 😊

Client: What's the difference between the short form and the long form? Accountant: If you use the short form, the IRS gets all your money. If you use the long form, I get all your money! 😊

Ever wonder how Form 1040 got its name? For every \$50 you earn, you get \$10, they get \$40. 😊

With the price of everything else going up these days, aren't you glad the Lord hasn't increased the tithe to 15%? 😊

Honest husband to wife : " ..but I always tell you the truth after I lie." 😊

Q: What is height of Honesty? A: A pregnant woman taking one and a half tickets. 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

Parents who pray together teach by the way they live that God is real; that he is present, listening, and eager to be part of our lives. Do you pray as a family? That is the best parenting you can give your children, for you are the first and best teachers of faith.

### Marriage Tune-Up



Give to God what belongs to God! Giving the right place for God in your marriage is the best way to cement your marriage for good. That means seeing God's presence in your spouse, and thanking God for the gift that your spouse is to you, even when you are conscious of what is lacking in each other!



### He evangelized me with a cup of Tea!

One day Bishop Christopher Mwoleka came to our house in Nyabihanga Village in Rulenge, Tanzania on an unexpected visit. My good friend Athanasius and I hurriedly prepared tea for the villagers who came to greet the bishop. We started with two full thermoses, but then several other visitors came and soon we had finished all the tea. I wondered what I would do if another person came. Just then one of our neighbors arrived to say hello. As I started to apologize for not having any more tea, Athanasius spontaneously picked up his own cup of tea and politely handed it to the visitor. It was a simple gesture of sharing, but for me a profound act of love and beauty. By his example, Athanasius had evangelized me. (Joseph G. Healey, M.M, a Maryknoll Missionary).

### True Christian Life is the Best Witness

The most powerful means of fulfilling the mission of Jesus (Evangelization) is by living a truly Christian life -- a life filled with love, mercy, kindness, compassion and a forgiving spirit. Mr. Gandhi used to say: "My life is my message." He often challenged the Christian missionaries to observe the "apostolate of the rose." A rose doesn't preach. It simply radiates its fragrance and attracts everyone to it by its irresistible beauty. Hence, the most important thing is not the Gospel we preach, but the life we live. This is how the early Christians evangelized. Their Gentile neighbors used to say: "See how these Christians love one another." The Christ they recognized and accepted was the Christ who lived in each Christian.



## The Grace of “ohana”

**“Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” Matthew 22: 15-21**

In Hawaii, it is called *ohana* — “family.” *Ohana* is a sensibility, a way of thinking, that embraces everyone as family, as community. *Ohana* is a unifying principle in a fragmented world. In the wake of the devastating fires that destroyed much of Lahaina on the island of Maui, the concept of *ohana* has taken on profound importance. *Ohana* is solace in a time of calamity, compassionate sacrifice for those in pain or despair. *Ohana* envisions everyone as brother and sister, father and mother.

The spirit of *ohana* has been the driving force as Lahaina begins the overwhelming prospect of rebuilding the thousands of homes destroyed by the deadliest wildfire in the United States in more than a century. More than 2,000 structures burned to the ground; the cost to rebuild Lahaina has been estimated to cost more than \$5 billion. In the spirit of *ohana*, Hawaiians all over the state have mobilized to provide food, clothes and everyday necessities to the thousands of families who lost everything — including hundreds of loved ones.

The stories of *ohana* are endless — and inspiring: Every form of seacraft has been pressed into service — from large tourist boats to jet skis to canoes — to ferry food, clothing, generators, tools and building supplies. Hotels have mobilized to provide temporary housing. Colleges and community groups have opened kitchens and dining facilities.

To the Hawaiian people, *ohana* never breaks but only gets stronger in times of crisis. One Lahaina resident says that despite the devastation, “*ohana* was never lost. It never left. We will always come to each other’s aid.” [Associated Press, *The Christian Science Monitor*.]

**The spirit of *ohana* is at the heart of today’s Gospel. Rejecting the Pharisees’ attempts to trap Jesus in a God-versus-Caesar controversy, Jesus calls for a *ohana*-like perspective: to look beyond simplistic politics and black-and-white legalisms to realize the dignity possessed by every man, woman and child as God’s sons and daughters, brothers and sisters to one another. Authentic faith is a matter of fully embracing our baptismal call to give thanks to the God of all blessings by sharing those blessings with all, to take on God’s entrusting to us the work of being prophets of God’s justice and peace and agents of that justice in our own corner of the vineyard. We are called by Jesus to understand our shared responsibility to provide for the common good and to protect the most vulnerable among us in a spirit of *ohana*: that we are all family to one another in God.**

## We are one Nation under God!

Not long ago in Blackwood, New Jersey, the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the senior class could not have a non-sectarian prayer at commencement. The senior class had voted to offer this prayer: "Please bless us in the future and thank you for the blessings of the past. God keep a watchful eye on us in the future. Amen." The court backed the ACLU's contention that the prayer was unconstitutional. But surely our constitution's authors did not mean to prohibit 17- and 18-year-olds from saying such a prayer if they elected to do so. The principal of that high school did have the last word. At the end of his commencement speech he declared, "God bless you and God bless the United States of America!" Immediately the students jumped to their feet and applauded. We are not "one nation without a God." We are not "one nation afraid to name its God." We are "one nation under God."

**“Give to God what is God’s.” How? Since everything is God’s, we must give ourselves to Him 100%, not just 10% on Sundays. We should be generous in fulfilling our Sunday obligations and find time every day for prayer and worship in the family, for the reading of the Bible and the proper training of our children in Faith and morals. St. Augustine teaches that when we truly succeed in “giving to God what is God’s,” we are “doing justice to God.” This requires that we return to God, with dividends, that which God has entrusted to us, remembering that we are mere managers or stewards of God’s gifts. We will soon be invited to make the stewardship pledge of our financial offering to the local Church for the coming year. Our contribution to the parish Church should be an expression of our gratitude to God, giving back to God all that he has given us. This will help us to combat the powerful influence of materialism in our lives and enable the Church to do God’s work. Our cash offerings signify our commitment to the ministries of the Gospel, the activities of the Risen Lord. Every pledge enables and empowers ministry. Every pledge, every dollar, touches a human life and brings it closer to God. Every pledge, every dollar given, is transformed into love for someone else and for ourselves. Active participation in the various ministries of the parish is the offering to God of our time and talents, yet another way of giving to God his due, our whole self.**

## Render to God, Render to Caesar!

American heritage is full of Christian influence. When the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth in 1620, they paused to write the Mayflower Compact, the first law of American shores. It reads in part: "In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten ... having undertaken for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith ... a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of

continued

## Reflect

### Render to God, Render to Caesar! (continued)

Virginia.” George Washington, in his first presidential inauguration, added to his oath, “So help me God” and then kissed the Bible. (It is disputed if George Washington added the words “So help me God” to the oath or somebody else). Ben Franklin, in 1778 at the Constitutional Convention, made motion that proceedings each day be opened with prayer. He said, “I have lived for a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proof I see of this truth, that God governs the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an Empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured by the Holy Scriptures that ‘Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain to build it.’ I firmly believe this, and I also believe that without His concurring aid, we shall proceed in this political building no better than the founders of Babel.” Every Presidential inaugural speech, save one, has mentioned God. Our coins have *In God We Trust* on them. The Ten Commandments are mostly still in our law books, forbidding theft, lying, murder, and such. Congress is still opened with prayer. George Washington, in his farewell address, said: “The truth is, politics and morality are inseparable. As morality's foundation is religion, religion and politics are necessarily related.” So you see, politics and religion can and have mixed in our nation's past. Fact is, as Jesus did say, we have something as Christians to render to God as well as something to render to Caesar!



### “American Prometheus”

In Greek mythology, the Titan god Prometheus is condemned by Zeus for stealing fire from the gods and giving it to humans, thus giving the human race the means for their own destruction.

Kai Bird and Martin Sherwin titled their 2006 Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of J. Robert Oppenheimer **American Prometheus** — and now Christopher Nolan has based his extraordinary film **Oppenheimer** on Bird and Sherwin's work. The book and film tell a story of genius, hubris and error, chronicling the life of the brilliant theoretical physicist, celebrated in some quarters as the father of the atomic bomb.

In 1942, despite his liberal political and social leanings and his “complicated” personal life, Oppenheimer is recruited by the U.S. government to head up the Manhattan Project. In the isolated Los Alamos, New Mexico desert, he heads a team of brilliant scientists and engineers to harness nuclear reactions to create a weapon that, they hoped, would end the war in Europe and the Pacific.

At the beginning, the goal of the project is clear: beat Hitler to the punch and save American lives. But what starts as a desperate military strategy to catch the Nazis becomes a

moral quandary for Oppenheimer. He becomes haunted by the weapon he is creating.

It is the famed physicist Nils Bohr, Oppenheimer's one-time teacher and mentor, who articulates so clearly what is at stake. Visiting the top-secret Los Alamos site, Bohr says to his student:

“The power you are about to reveal will forever outlive the Nazis, and the world is not prepared. We have to make the politicians understand, this isn't a new weapon, it is a new world . . . You are an American Prometheus, the man who gave them the power to destroy themselves. And they'll respect that. And your work really begins soon.”

Later, as he watches the first test bomb, Oppenheimer says aloud the infamous words that he said crossed his mind as the mushroom cloud rose over the New Mexico desert: “Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds.”

**The story of J. Robert Oppenheimer and the Manhattan Project begins as a battle between warring political and national entities, but Oppenheimer soon realizes his work transcends any battle lines — what he has midwived is the birth of a new world. Oppenheimer and Bohr come to understand that the lines we have drawn and the boundaries we have erected in order to make sense of our lives collapse before God. God calls us to realize his hand in all things, his spirit making all things whole and good, his vision creating a human family united in his peace, justice and mercy. The confrontation over Caesar's coin is neither the final answer to any church-versus-state controversy nor an all-purpose formula for dealing with life's big questions. Jesus appeals to us to look beyond the simplistic politics and black-and-white legalisms represented by Caesar's coin and realize that we are called to embrace the values centered in a faith that sees the hand of God in all things and every human being as being part of one human family under the providence of God.**

### Check your heart's investments!

When he says, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's,” Jesus is asking us whether we have invested our heart in the right place, in something worthy of our life's blood, something that will yield a return that's worthy of a whole human life. There is only one way to find out where our hearts are. Let us check our daily choices, the little ones as well the big ones, and look for the patterns: What do we usually do when decision time comes for where we will spend our prime time and our best energies? *These are the infallible indicators of what we truly value, and what we don't. Whose image do others see when they look at our life? When people see us, do they see Jesus engraved upon us? To the extent that they do, that's the extent to which we belong to the Kingdom of God.*



## Reflect



### 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.

## Pray



### ALL SOUL'S MASS

Our annual All Souls Mass will take place on Thursday, November 2nd, at the 5:00 pm Liturgy. The names of all who have been buried from St. Matthias this past year will be spoken aloud and prayed for.

Families of the deceased, as well as all parishioners, are invited to attend this very special liturgy, as we remember our dear departed ones.



### Join a St. Matthias Small Faith Group Today!

If you are new to this experience, and would like to sign up, please visit [www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/](http://www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/)



October 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On October 22, as we observe World Mission Sunday, we stand in solidarity with the Missions of the Church in this annual worldwide Eucharistic celebration.

Pope Francis reflected on this year's theme: "Hearts on fire, feet on the move." The Holy Father invites us to kindle the fire of Christ's love in our hearts and to actively share this warmth with the world around us. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we go forth and bring the Good News to all corners of the world.

Founded by French laywoman Blessed Pauline Jaricot in 1822, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith is an essential source of aid for the Church's missionary work. In the United States, we benefited from these donations: up until 1908, we received close to 7 million dollars, the equivalent of over 250 million today. Those dioceses in our country, considered mission territories, continued to receive subsidies. Fairbanks, Alaska, was the last of those dioceses and received its final subsidy payment this year!

The World Mission Sunday collection assists the Holy Father meet his Petrine obligation to build up the Church in over 1,100 dioceses and territories that are too young and/or too poor to sustain themselves. Offerings support the formation of seminarians and religious men and women, assist in the construction of schools and orphanages and enables missionaries to build churches in remote and resource-limited areas, and to meet essential works to proclaim the Gospel and celebrate the Sacraments.

Embodying this year's theme, I urge you to keep your hearts aflame and your feet moving this World Mission Sunday. Your prayers are invaluable, and your financial support provides life-giving aid to our brothers and sisters in the world's most vulnerable communities.

Gratefully in the Lord,

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

For additional resources about World Mission Sunday, please visit [onefamilyinmission.org/resources](http://onefamilyinmission.org/resources)

Feel good, eat great *with*  
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Catholic Community of St. Matthias

RACIAL  
 JUSTICE  
 INITIATIVE



**MOVIE  
 NIGHT**



DATE: Saturday, November 4th  
 TIME: 6:00 pm Dinner / 6:30 pm Movie  
 WHERE: St. John XXIII Room

Please join us for a special Black Catholic History Month movie night! We will be watching *Just Mercy*, starring Michael B. Jordan. There will be sandwiches, beverages, cookies, and lots of fellowship, including reflection questions and discussion. There will be a free will offering for dinner and ALL are encouraged to attend! Please RSVP by Thursday, **November 2<sup>nd</sup>** so that we can prepare food order accordingly:

via email to [matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com) or  
 via SignUpGenius, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040E45AFA822AAF49-45185294-just>

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**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](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmattias.net).

**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.

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL  
**St. Matthias  
 Holiday Craft Fair**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2023  
 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
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## Learn



### WHO WAS ST. LUKE?

#### CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

Luke's meticulous writings make up the largest part of the New Testament. He is credited with writing about 27%. It was his goal to write an orderly account of the life of Jesus and the early history of the Church after His Ascension. He addressed his Gospel and Acts to Theophilus, a wealthy and prestigious Roman learning about Christianity and probably preparing to convert. Luke wanted to present Christianity as a legitimate religion to be embraced by the gentile world.

Luke's gospel is alive with vivid parables of Jesus, more than in any other gospel. In his writings, Luke continuously writes about the compassion and love for humanity expressed by Jesus in his teachings, particularly for the poor and the marginalized. It is in Luke we learn of the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan and other parables of Jesus that do not

appear in any other gospel.

There is some disagreement about the death of Luke. Some scholars state that he was martyred. Others claim he lived a long life and died at about the age of 84, in Thebes Greece. In 357 AD his remains, for protective reasons, were transferred to Constantinople. Eventually his casket and the majority of his remains came to Padua Italy, to the basilica of St. Justina.

In conclusion, Luke has brought Jesus alive through his writings. He has presented Jesus as the savior for the whole universe, as a God who came not just for a few, but for all. He is honored as the patron saint of physicians, surgeons and artists, not only by Catholics but also by other major denominations.

St. Luke, Pray for us!

*Mary Guardino, St. Matthias Vocations Committee*

## Serve



### Can You Press A Down Arrow On A Computer Keyboard?

Our weekend tech team needs more volunteers. At every Mass, one of our dedicated volunteers shows our Mass PowerPoint. We'd like to increase our number of volunteers. It's easy, and it really makes a difference in the way we worship at St. Matthias.

Our volunteers come 15 minutes ahead of time. They sit in our Music area and advance the PowerPoint during Mass.

The PowerPoint is prepared ahead of time by our parishioner Jean Nicoletti- thank you Jean! We give a short training for how to turn on the projectors and present the PowerPoint. Volunteers are scheduled a week ahead of time. If your plans change, our volunteers send a text or email in enough time for us to find a sub. It's an especially good way for our young parishioners- grade 8 and above- to help out. It can count as service hours that a lot of schools require. If you are coming to Mass anyway, it's interesting and fun. It really helps you to pay attention to what's coming up next And it's not just for young people- we do not age discriminate! A couple can do it as a team, too, if you want to sit together during Mass.

And, of course, we make sure that our tech team members receive the Eucharist at Communion time. The more volunteers we get, the deeper our bench. We especially need help at our 5:00 and 10:00 Masses. Email Music Director Joan Seamon at [jseamon@stmatthias.net](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net), if you are willing to be one of our new tech team recruits. Or send me the name of your son or daughter or friend, and I'll reach out to them personally.

**It could be a whole new ministry for YOU!**

Music Director Joan Best Seamon, 732-828-1400, ext.107; [jseamon@stmatthias.net](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net)



### **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](http://www.stmatthias.net/tree)

# 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	<b>\$19,602.25</b>	\$20,588.35
Week 11 - October 8, 2023	\$8,822.00	\$25,615.25	<b>\$34,437.25</b>	\$34,356.78
Week 12 - October 15, 2023	\$10,198.00	\$16,115.25	<b>\$26,313.25</b>	\$22,628.25
Week 13 - October 22, 2023			<b>\$0.00</b>	\$25,162.75
Week 13 - October 29, 2023			<b>\$0.00</b>	\$18,454.95
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>October Total Last</b>
			<b>\$80,352.75</b>	\$121,191.08
			<b>Current Year-to-date</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of</b>
			<b>\$1,781,540.14</b>	\$1,773,894.31

## Stewardship Reflection 22, 2023 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**“Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s. - Matthew 22:21**

Everything we are and everything we have belongs to God. We aren’t “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given each of us. All God is asking is that we give back a portion of what He gave us. This is the essence of Stewardship. God should be our first priority in everything. All else comes second, especially our money.

## Reflexiónese 22 de octubre 2023 Domingo 29º del Tiempo Ordinario

**“Dad al Cesar lo que es del Cesar y a Dios lo que es de Dios.” - MATEO 22:21**

Todo lo que somos y todo lo que tenemos le pertenece a Dios. No somos los dueños de nada, somos simples “administradores” de los dones que hemos recibido de Dios. Todo lo que Dios nos pide es que demos parte de lo que Él nos ha dado. Esa es la esencia de la Corresponsabilidad. Dios debe ser nuestra prioridad en todo. Todo lo demás viene en segundo lugar, especialmente nuestro dinero.

# Connect with our Local Community

**All are invited to a Healing & Penance Service & Mass, OLOP, 1730 US Highway 130, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.**

Rev. John Campoli, i.v.dei, will present an afternoon of spiritual reflection including discussion & a healing service from **2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday November 4, 2023 at Our Lady of Peace Parish Center** in North Brunswick. **At 4:00 PM, across the parking lot, at Our Lady of Peace Church, Father will then offer a Penance Service, followed by Father celebrating the 5:00 PM Vigil Mass.** This Celebration is sponsored by the Our Lady of Peace Columbiettes. For more information about Fr. Campoli, please visit [www.frjohncampoli.com](http://www.frjohncampoli.com). Address: OLOP, 1730 US Highway 130, North Brunswick, NJ 08902. All are welcome.

# Parish Leadership

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b>  <b>Co-Chairs:</b> Frank Rees <a href="mailto:Frees814@gmail.com">Frees814@gmail.com</a>  Marilyn Wegg <a href="mailto:mcw-wam@comcast.net">mcw-wam@comcast.net</a>	<b>Co-Secretaries:</b> Stephen Busono <a href="mailto:sbusono@gmail.com">sbusono@gmail.com</a> Bill Isele <a href="mailto:t33sm@aol.com">t33sm@aol.com</a> Al Drabnis Didi Molano	Sheila Tartaglia  Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio  <b>Trustees:</b> Pearl Scott Marge Richards	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b>  Kester Hector, Chair <b>Finance Council</b> <a href="mailto:@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a>  Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Gwen Orlowski	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](http://www.stmatthias.net/join-us), or visit the Parish Office.

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

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

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



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

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