



#### 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 - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 noon  
M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00 AM  
also on our YouTube channel  
[youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](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 7:45AM 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 27, 2024

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Today's**  
special  
collection  
is for  
recovery  
help after  
The  
devastating  
hurricanes  
Helene &  
Milton



#### Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

**TODAY 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.

**All Are Welcome!**

**Masses on Friday, All Saints Day are at:**  
**8 AM, 12:10 PM AND 7:30 PM**

**There will be an 8 AM Mass on**  
**Saturday, All Souls Day.**

**Our special Memorial Mass for those who**  
**departed from us this year will be on**  
**Sunday at 5:30 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 27, 2024

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:00AM	K of C Pancake Breakfast	Cafeteria
10:00AM	Mass Interpreter	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Prayer & Discernment for Vocations	John XXIII Rm
4:00PM	SMYLE Mtg.	Cafeteria

## Monday, Oct 28, 2024 Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostle & Martyr

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

## Tuesday, Oct 29, 2024 St. Narcissus of Jerusalem, Bishop

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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## Wednesday, Oct 30, 2024 St. Saturninus of Cagliari, Martyr

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 31, 2024 St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, Religious Brother

Halloween

8:00AM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Halloween Parade- PreK & K	Outside

## Friday, Nov 1, 2024 Solemnity- All Saints Day Holy Day of Obligation

1st Day of American Indian Heritage Month

SMS- Early Dismissal

8:00AM	All Saints Mass	Church
8:00AM	School Faculty Mtg.	School
10:00AM	All Saints School Mass- Celebration	Grandfriends Church
12:10PM	All Saints Mass	Church
7:30PM	All Saints Mass	Church

## Saturday, Nov 2, 2024 All Souls Day

8:00AM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

## Sunday, Nov 3, 2024 Daylight Savings Time Ends

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

In a few days, we enter some very important events in the church's calendar.

**All Saints Day is this Friday (November 1), a Holy Day of Obligation. We have three Masses that day: 8 am, 12:10 pm and 7:30 pm, so that we can attend any Mass at our convenience.**

The Bible reminds us that the number of those saved are *"a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue."* (Revelation 7:9). This includes the canonized saints whose number keeps on increasing. Pope Francis canonized 14 new saints just last Sunday (October 20). They are:

- Manuel Ruiz López and Seven Companions of the Order of Friars Minor, and Francis Mooti and Raphael Massabki, lay faithful, martyrs.
- Joseph Allamano, priest, Founder of the Institutes of Men Missionaries of the Consolata and Women Missionaries of the Consolata.
- Marie-Léonie Paradis (born Virginia Alodie), Foundress of the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family.
- Elena Guerra, Foundress of the Congregation of the Oblates of the Holy Spirit, known as the "Sisters of Saint Zita."
- Carlo Acutis, the modern teen web designer who had special devotion to the Eucharist.

Among the newly canonized saints is St. Giuseppe Allamano (1851-1926), an Italian diocesan priest who founded the Consolata Missionary Priests and Sisters. Allamano, though he spent his entire life in Italy, left a global legacy by training missionaries who carried the Gospel to remote corners of Africa, Asia, and South America. We, here at St. Matthias, have a special connection to the Consolata Missionaries as the Consolata priests have been a great help to us for many years and still continue to be whenever they are available to minister to us. In the name of us all, I congratulate them for this great honor of their founder's canonization.

**All Souls Day is on Saturday (November 2). Though not a Holy Day of Obligation, we will have a Holy Mass at 8 am. A separate Mass to commemorate all those who passed away this year will be held on Sunday evening (November 3) at 5:30 pm.**

We know that November is dedicated to the departed souls. At all the Masses this weekend, we are remembering in prayer all our dearly departed ones. Explaining the true concept of Purgatory as an "existential state" and not a place, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote that it is *"the fringe of heaven, a state where heaven's eternal light has a refining effect on the 'holy souls' (not 'poor souls'), who are held in the arms of Divine Mercy."*

The doctrine of "Communion of saints" that we profess every Sunday is a happy reminder to us of all those who are gone to God. Pope Francis calls it a "spiritual connection that exists between those who continue their pilgrimage on earth and those who have passed the threshold of death into eternity." So let us happily depend on their intercessions for us even as we remember them with gratitude in our prayers especially during the Holy Eucharist. This is one reason why we give a 'Mass Card' to those who are grieving the loss of a family member or arrange for Masses to be offered on the anniversary of our dear departed ones.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal





## Readings for the Week

**Monday** Eph 2:19-22 Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 Lk 6:12-16

**Tuesday** Eph 5:21-33 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 Lk 13:18-21

**Wednesday** Eph 6:1-9 Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14 Lk 13:22-30

**Thursday** Eph 6:10-20 Ps 144:1B, 2, 9-10 Lk 13:31-35

**Friday** Rv 7:2-4, 9-14 Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 1 Jn 3:1-3 Mt 5:1-12a

**Saturday** Wis 3:1-9 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Rom 6:3-9 Jn 6:37-40

**Sunday** Dt 6:2-6 Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 Heb 7:23-28 Mk 12:28b-34



## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, October 26</b>	5:00PM	Sr. Amata, by Vinnie & Ethel
	5:00PM	Paul Jason Vergel, by Vergel Family
<b>Sunday, October 27</b>	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Al & Julia Nowakowski, by Daughter, Irene
	12:00PM	Jonathan, Oliver & Julius Brewster, by Judith James
<b>Monday, October 28</b>	8:00AM	Tillie Salitsky, by The Kreiger Family
<b>Tuesday, October 29</b>	8:00AM	Al Maglio, by Mary Albani
<b>Wednesday, October 30</b>	8:00AM	Patrizia Nese, by Rita
<b>Thursday, October 31</b>	8:00AM	Ann Dillon, by Ralph & Rita Lecessi
<b>Friday, November 1</b>	8:00AM	Deceased Members of the Natale & Tarantino Families, by Vinnie
	12:10PM	Paul & Maureen Doyle Endres, by Isabelle & John Baker
	7:30PM	Natalie & Shirley Boyd, by Dolores
<b>Saturday, November 2</b>	5:00PM	Vito L. Pinto, by The Lanyi & Kantor Families
	5:00PM	Adele Miara, by The Coffaro Family
	5:00PM	Felisa & all the Deceased members of the De Guzman Family, by Alma
<b>Sunday, November 3</b>	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Mary Ann Selenko, by Ellin Ossandon
	10:00AM	Marius & Nancy Moran, by Sherry & Joe Brucia
	12:00PM	James Meagher, by Children
	5:30PM	All Souls Remembrance Mass

## Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or [email prayer@stmatthias.net](mailto:prayer@stmatthias.net) to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for **6 weeks**. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers.

**New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.**

### Sue Alese

Edgar Banaag  
Carolyn Banghart  
Ghislaine Baron  
Samantha Bellouny  
Carmen Bender  
Mary Bostrom  
Tara Capatosto  
Rustico Castellano  
Sanora Doyen  
Andrea Dubuisson  
Hattie Evans  
Margaret Ann Cichon  
Ford  
Sharon Gadomski  
Heinley Gaspard

### Emma Gergely

Claude Godet  
Marie Godet  
Shelly Greene  
Linda Hartong  
Jeff Hentz  
Marilyn Horvath  
Jerry & Donna Hucul  
Marilyn Jensen  
Jean Alix Jolly  
Renée Jolly  
Donna Kahora  
Betsy Kondrat  
Kathy Langenbacher  
Rose Larangeira  
**Linda Leone**

### Henrietta Lesiak

Mary Lou Litrakis  
Aries Magali  
Kenneth & Kelly Magat  
Susan, King & Tosh Manansala  
Colleen Maniscalco  
Alexandra Marquez  
Christine Matthews  
Ann McElwee  
Jessica Marie Merrick  
Gail Miranda  
Menchie Molano-Sotelo  
Sarah Braun Morini

### Robert Pellegrino

**Robert Pierro**  
Robert Pietrowiak  
Randolff Pinard  
Valerie Polci  
Kim Price  
Frank Rispoli  
Gabriel Rivera  
Bob Rotz  
Marisa Ruppel  
Maria Schwenzer  
Amy Shepp  
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF  
Timothy Siclari  
Catherine Steele

### Sr. Bernadine Marie

Stemnock  
Richard Sury  
Jacqueline Taylor  
**Anita Vance**  
Minda Villarica  
Eileen Weber  
Nancy Whelan  
Ginette Zamor  
Celia M. Zelinski  
Anne Zando

**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*

George Azer

Alex Folnagy

James Robinson

## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



Two little neighbor girls about the same age, one Christian and one Jewish, were constant companions. After one Easter holiday, the grandfather of the Christian girl asked her what her friend had received for Easter. The girl looked at her grandfather in surprise, and said, "But Grandpa, you should know that Becky is Jewish and she wouldn't get anything for Easter." Then she went on to explain patiently, "You see, I'm Easter and she's Passover. I'm Christmas and she's Hanukkah." Then with a big smile, she added, "but I'm really glad that both of us are Halloween." 😊

**Q:** Why did the policeman ticket the ghost on Halloween?

**A:** It didn't have a haunting license! 😊

**Q:** Who in the Bible knew the most people?

**A:** Abraham knew a Lot. 😊

What's a believer's favorite fruit? Spiritual. 😊

What did the lawyer ask when someone started talking about God's will? "Was it notarized?" 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

When families work well, jobs are shared according to age, ability, and interest. Just for fun, why not shake it up once in a while. Try trading jobs. You just might learn something new.

### Marriage Tune-Up

Even when Jesus knew what Bartimaeus wanted, he wanted to listen to him expressing his needs (Mark 10:46-52). How do you listen to your spouse? When you speak to your partner, do you consciously focus on his/her feelings and personal struggles? Before any serious personal talk with your spouse, decide not to become defensive or interrupt each other. Remember that your partner might not want solutions - he or she needs you to just sit back and listen.



## *A Pearl of Wisdom For This Week*

*"Happiness keeps you sweet; but being sweet brings happiness."*

### Do you suffer from Spiritual Blindness?

Each one of us suffers from spiritual blindness. Hence, we need the light of the Holy Spirit to enlighten us. Anger, hatred, prejudice, jealousy, evil habits, etc., make us spiritually blind and prevent us from seeing the goodness in our neighbors and God's presence in them. We are blind to a sense of justice when we refuse to pay our debts, or when we collect our wages though we have not done an honest day's work for that day's pay or have cheated our employer by taking time or items that belong to the company. We are blinded by greed when we are never satisfied with what we have and incur debts to buy luxury items. Hence, let us pray to have a clear vision of Christian values and priorities in our lives and to acknowledge the presence of God dwelling in ourselves and in our neighbors. A clear spiritual vision enables us to see the goodness in others, to express our appreciation for all that they have been doing for us, and to refrain from criticizing their performance.

### Just Coincidence...?

In 1949, a young soldier returned home from the war to find his mother desperately ill with kidney problems. She needed an immediate blood transfusion to save her life. Unfortunately, no one in the family shared the mother's very rare blood type of AB negative, and blood banks didn't exist in those days. The young soldier decided to gather his family together to say goodbye to his mother. As he was driving home from the hospital, he stopped to pick up another young soldier who was hitchhiking. The hitchhiker noticed the young man's tears and asked him what was wrong. The young man blurted out the story of his dying mother. In

silence, the hitchhiker took off his dog tags and held them out to the young man. On the tags was listed his blood type: AB negative. The mother received her transfusion that night and recovered fully. She lived another 47 years after that fateful night. Coincidence? We don't know. This soldier and his family think the hitchhiker was an angel sent by God. All we know is that these coincidences happen quite often for people of Faith. Jesus heals. He healed Bartimaeus and he has healed millions of others—emotionally, spiritually, and, sometimes, physically.

## Right Now Matters!

***Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me . . . !" Master, I want to see." Mark 10: 46-52***

Samantha had just finished college and was about to embark on the "real world." Her mother warned her: "You are about to enter a really weird time in your life, and I can't prepare you for it. Just be aware." Eager to move on from college in Tennessee, she moved back to her hometown of St. Louis and landed a job as a nanny with a wealthy and extremely likable family. It was a great job for a nanny - but this was not what she envisioned her life to be. While her friends were going off to law school or beginning promising new careers in great cities or getting married, she was mastering toasting the perfect Eggo waffle.

Samantha second-guessed her decision to flee Tennessee and tortured herself with feelings of insignificance and failure. It was turning into that "weird time" her mother warned her about. Then came one of those "aha!" moments when things become unmistakably clear. She was playing outside with her little charges when one of them came up and said, "You're so great. You don't even have to play with us but you do it anyway. Our other nannies never did that. We love you!" Samantha was floored. Not only did she underestimate the kids' ability to be so gracious, but they made her realize that it's truly not about what life hands you but what you do with it. Samantha writes:

"I could easily just patrol these girls, make sure they don't run out in the street or draw all over the walls, but I don't. I play with them. I make my life part of theirs and vice versa. And together, we have perfected the fine art of Eggo toasting. How many people can say that?" Samantha discovered that "self-worth is where you find it and that the most beautiful form of self-worth occurs when you maximize the amount of love you share with the world, no matter how mundane or humble the circumstances may be . . . Just because you have a college degree doesn't mean you need a job with a Blackberry."

**In today's Gospel, a blind man asks to see. Jesus responds not by mixing mud or touching the man's eyes or looking to heaven in prayer; Jesus says, basically, *Look with the eyes of the faith you already possess. Not only does he restore Bartimaeus' physical sight but Jesus also "restores" Bartimaeus' realization of God's love in his life, enabling him to embrace, with hope, the life God has called him to live: a life that finds its meaning in selfless giving and reconciling peace. In the same way, Samantha comes to realize the possibilities she has to be the means of love and joy for the children entrusted to her and, in that role, she discovers meaning and joy in her own life. Jesus opens the eyes of our hearts as well, enabling us to realize the opportunities we have to bring life and light, healing and peace, justice and mercy to others along our way to the dwelling place of God. Faith calls us to "see" with the human heart, to perceive in the spirit.***

## All Saints Day – Diversity of Saints

One thing that strikes you first about the Saints is their diversity. It would be very difficult to find one pattern of holiness, one way of following Christ. There is Thomas Aquinas, the towering intellectual, and John Vianney (the Curé d'Ars), who barely made it through the seminary. There is Vincent de Paul, a saint in the city, and there is Antony who found sanctity in the harshness and loneliness of the desert. There is Bernard kneeling on the hard stones of Clairvaux in penance for his sins, and there is Hildegard of Bingen singing and throwing flowers, madly in love with God. There is Albertus Magnus, the quirky scientist, half-philosopher and half-wizard, and there is Gerard Manley Hopkins, the gentle poet. There is Peter, the hard-nosed and no-nonsense fisherman, and there is Edith Stein, secretary to Edmund Husserl and colleague to Martin Heidegger, the most famous philosopher of the twentieth century. There is Joan of Arc, leading armies into war, and there is Francis of Assisi, the peacenik who would never hurt an animal. There is the grave and serious Jerome, and there is Philip Neri, whose spirituality was based on laughter. How do we explain this diversity? God is an artist, and artists love to change their styles. The saints are God's masterpieces, and He never tires of painting them in different colors, different styles, and different compositions. What does this mean for us? It means we should not try to imitate any one Saint exactly. Look to them all, study their unique holiness, but then find that specific color God wants to bear through you. St. Catherine of Siena was right: "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." (Fr. Robert Barron).



### A Pumpkin story:

"What is it like to be a Christian saint?" "It is like being a Halloween pumpkin. God picks you from the field, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you.

Then he cuts off the top and scoops out the yucky stuff. He removes the pulp of impurity and injustice and seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light of holiness inside you to shine for the entire world to see." This is the Christian idea behind the carved pumpkins during the Halloween season.





## "What I like to See!"

Helen Keller, so brave and inspiring to us in her deafness and blindness, once wrote a magazine article entitled: "Three Days to See." In that article she outlined what things she would like to see if she were granted just three days of sight. It was a powerful, thought-provoking article. On the first day, she said, she wanted to see friends. Day two she would spend seeing nature. The third day she would spend in her home city of New York, watching the busy city and the workday of the present. She concluded it with these words: "I who am blind can give one hint to those who see: Use your eyes as if tomorrow you were to be stricken blind."

**The gospel this Sunday is the healing of blind Bartimaeus who tried to get the attention of Jesus. In the midst of the crowd, Jesus called him and wanted him to articulate what his need was. Bartimaeus who had lots of things in his mind (unhappiness and all other feelings due to his inability to see and manage his life as he was a blind beggar), got a chance to share his needs with Jesus. Like Bartimaeus, we must seek Jesus with trust in his goodness and mercy. Sometimes our fears, anger and habitual unhealthy habits prevent us from approaching God in prayer. At times, we even become angry with God when He seems slow in answering our prayers. In these desperate moments, let us approach Jesus in prayer with trusting Faith as Bartimaeus did and listen carefully to the voice of Jesus asking us: "What do you want me to do for you?" Let us tell Him all our heart's intentions and needs. Let us imitate Bartimaeus, the man of faith and vision, a man unafraid to recognize his need for healing and to cry out, "I want to see!"**



MEN of St. Matthias who lived their Cursillo Weekend at the Loyola Retreat Center, Fall 2024

Front Row: (L to R) Ricky Michel, Denik Joseph, Steve Busono, Bill Grippo

Back Row: (L to R) Don Tibay, Andrew Tibay, Nick Grippo, Peter Kostik

## "Do you see what I see?"

A Pastor shared this:

In our parish office there hangs a modernistic picture composed of a maze of colors and shapes. I know these sophisticated, modern, and abstract pictures are supposed to contain some profound artistic or philosophical message, but I have never been able to figure it out. It just looks like a jumbled mass of confusion. If there is a message there, I am blind to it. One day while I was standing in the office, waiting for the copier to warm up, one of the parents came to the office with her kindergarten-age boy, Adam. After greeting me he looked at the picture for a minute and said to me, "Do you see what I see?" "Do you see something in that picture? I sure don't." Adam looked at me with glee in his eye, "Father, can't you see him? It's Jesus hanging on the cross." I stared as hard as I could, until my eyes actually hurt from staring. I wanted to believe Adam, that there actually was the image of Jesus hanging on the cross hidden somewhere in that mass of color and shapes, but I couldn't see Jesus anywhere. "Adam, I'm sorry but I must be blind. You will have to help me see." Directing his finger to a mass of color in the center of the picture, Adam said, "There, Father. Do you see what I see? There is Jesus, his face, his arms outstretched on the cross." And then, like an epiphany, the image began to appear. Yes, there hidden somehow "behind" the colors and the shapes was the barely visible image of Jesus, hanging with arms outstretched on the cross. "It's amazing, Adam. You have helped one blind pastor to see Jesus. Yes, I can see what you see, Adam." A similar epiphany happens in today's Gospel.

## *A Stewardship Prayer for our Parish*

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

## Pray



### RCIA

We are very happy to announce that a good group of adults and teens have registered for the new class for RCIA (now renamed as OCIA). But you might know someone, in your families or friendship circles, who has not received the Sacrament of Holy Communion or Confirmation. Kindly ask them to contact our RCIA Coordinators:

Anne Marie Francis at [alfrancis.30@gmail.com](mailto:alfrancis.30@gmail.com) or Mary Frances Reavey at [mfreavey@gmail.com](mailto:mfreavey@gmail.com)

We are making it easy for all to attend these sessions by meeting on Sundays after the 10 am Mass. These sessions are conducted not in a lecture or class model but as a faith-sharing group that is truly fun to learn and have good support in the faith journey.

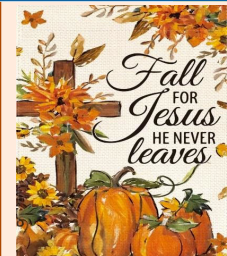
### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME WITH  
THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.**

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING,  
OCTOBER 28, 2024 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

**WHEN THE DEACON IS AVAILABLE, WE CONCLUDE ADORATION WITH A BENEDICTION.**



### 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 has begun. 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!**



### SERVICEWORX – OUR YOUTH SHARE # 7

*Nicole Goveia shares her experience about the week of immersion and reflection.*

- 1) Tell us about one service site and what you did there.  
We went to the day care and helped out the teachers and played with the kids.
- 2) What did you most enjoy about your service and the reflection activities in the afternoon at St. Matthias?  
I enjoyed playing with the kids the most. I enjoyed going back to sms and being able to charge my day with others and beating about theirs.
- 3) What challenges did you face while participating in service?  
The only thing that was a challenge was working in the heat at the farm.
- 4) What lessons have you learned from these various experiences?  
I learned that there are many people that are less fortunate than I am and to appreciate everything I have.
- 5) How did you find the story of the Good Samaritan related to what you did during those five days of ServiceworX?  
We did exactly what the Good Samaritan did when he saw people in need. We were able to help out others all week long.

## 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](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org) &  
**Tesh Barr**, [tbarr@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto: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](mailto:dschurko@stmatthias.net)

## Serve



### MORNING OF SERVICE

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

1. **Franklin Food Bank** - 224 Churchill Avenue in Somerset - sorting canned goods, etc. Minimum age is 14. Limited to six people (8:00 - 12:30).
2. **Pregnancy Aid Center** - 59 Thompson Street in Raritan - sorting children's clothing. Limited to eight people (9:30 - 12:00 noon).

3. **Spring Hills - Assisted Senior Living Facility** - 473 DeMott Lane in Somerset - singing patriotic songs under the direction of Joan Best Seamon (10:30 - 11:15 approx.).

## Connect



### ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON ZOOM, ON NOVEMBER 13TH 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, November 13th, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Zoom. To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group. For more information, visit [alz.org/NJ](http://alz.org/NJ).



**NOAH LIVE ON STAGE**  
The Senior Ministry and  
St. Martin dePorres Society will once again  
host a trip to Lancaster, PA to see  
Sight & Sound "NOAH LIVE ON STAGE"  
**Saturday, May 17, 2025.**

More details, including how to purchase tickets, can be found  
at:  
[www.stmatthias.net/noah](http://www.stmatthias.net/noah)

**OUR TURN  
TO TALK**  
Documentary & Discussion  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024**  
**7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**  
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER  
505 DEMOTT LANE | SOMERSET, NJ

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

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

Storytelling **SAVES** Lives.  
DISCUSSION MODERATED BY SHEILA GILLIN, MSS, LCSW  
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED. Pre-Registration appreciated,  
but not required at [stigmatfree@franklinnj.gov](mailto:stigmatfree@franklinnj.gov)  
Name | E-mail | Phone Number

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





## Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giv-	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 14 - October 6, 2024	\$7,978.00	\$19,597.00	<b>\$27,575.00</b>	\$19,602.25
Week 15 - October 13, 2024	\$14,477.06	\$20,579.50	<b>\$35,056.56</b>	\$34,437.25
Week 16 - October 20, 2024	\$8,480.45	\$14,416.50	<b>\$22,896.95</b>	\$26,313.25
Week 17 - October 27, 2024			<b>\$0.00</b>	\$25,964.47
				\$18,512.25
			Month-to-date Total	October Total Last Year
<b>Emusoi Collection: \$6,823 (Sr. Mary Vertucci)</b>			<b>\$85,528.51</b>	\$124,829.47
<b>World Mission Sunday Collection: \$6,317.15</b>			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of October 31, 2023
			<b>\$388,376.96</b>	\$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 27, 2024 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"And Jesus said to him, 'Go your way; your faith has made you well.' And immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way." (MARK 10:52)*

Faith is believing in something even though you may not be able to physically see it. Many people think that miracles don't happen anymore. This is hard, but try to focus on the positive and not the negative things in your life. When you focus on your blessings instead of your hardships, miracles will seem common. You will see God's active presence in your daily life. You will begin to develop an attitude of gratitude.

#### Reflexiónese -27 de octubre de 2024 Domingo 30° del Tiempo Ordinario

*"Puedes irte —dijo Jesús—, tu fe te ha sanado. Al instante recobró la vista y comenzó a seguir a Jesús por el camino." (MARCOS 10:52)*

La fe es creer en algo, aunque no seamos capaces de verlo físicamente. Muchas personas piensan que los milagros ya no suceden. Esto es difícil, pero trate de centrarse en las cosas positivas de su vida y no en las negativas. Cuando usted se centra en sus bendiciones en lugar de en sus dificultades, los milagros parecerán comunes. Usted verá la presencia activa de Dios en su vida diaria y comenzará a desarrollar una actitud de gratitud.



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](http://www.stmatthias.net/trees)

## Connecting to Our Local Community



### SHRINE OF ST. JOSEPH

#### Navigating FAITH in a Changing World

Saturday, November 9, 2024 9:00 AM

Sunday, November 10, 2024 5:00 PM



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

**For more information or to register:**

[www.oneinthespirit.us/events-1/nov0910-colin-calmiano-retreat-navigate-faith](http://www.oneinthespirit.us/events-1/nov0910-colin-calmiano-retreat-navigate-faith) or call the shrine number 908-647-0208

1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ 07980,  
[shrineofsaintjoseph.com](http://shrineofsaintjoseph.com)



### Tuesday, November 12 from 7-9pm

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

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

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



**Catholic Charities**

### Be a Champion for Catholic Charities

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

Go to [www.diometuchen.org/champions](http://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](mailto:champions@diometuchen.org) or by phone to 732-562-2432.

## Parish Leadership

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b>  <b>Co-Chairs:</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>	<b>Co-Secretaries:</b>  Didi Molano  Sheila Tartaglia  Teresa Yannotta Joe Percoco	Miles London  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 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.