

All are Welcome

St. Matthias Parish Office:

Open Mon-Thu: 8:30-5:30PM; Fri: 8:30-5PM 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866

www.stmatthias.net

Mass Schedule (in person): Sat - 5PM, Sun - 8, 10 AM & 12 noon M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM And 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

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, abraham Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, sbrennan Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator mpburke-grospin

Deacon Ron Caimi, Senior Deacon Kelly Counts, Receptionist, kcounts Conroy Davis, Custodian Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Editor, Iguillen Nathalie Godet, Formation/Parish Support Secretary, ngodet

Amy Hanna, Parish Support Secretary, ahanna Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor Deacon Russell Demkovitz, rdemkovitz Ana V Kelly, Pastoral Associate for Marketing & Development, akelly

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Dolores R. Nann, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, dnann

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS **SUNDAY, OCT 31, 2021 -**Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass for All Souls Sunday, October 31, 5 PM

All Souls Mass will be celebrated tonight, SUNDAY, OCT. 31, at 5 PM.

Families whose loved ones have been buried from St. Matthias since October 2020, will have a candle lit for their loved one at the mass.

You are invited to bring a picture of your family member that evening to be placed on the bulletin board in the back of the Church. The pictures will remain on the bulletin board for month of November.

Everyone is invited to attend the Mass and pray for all of our deceased relatives and friends regardless of when the loss occurred.

Catholic Community of St. Matthias

ALL SAINTS DAY

RACIAL **JUSTICE** INITIATIVE



Stop by our table in the breezeway and speak with a St. Martin de Porres Racial Justice Initiative core group member TODAY, to learn about our goals and some of our more recent and upcoming activities, and to let us know if you want to join our core group.

Saturday, Oct. 30, 9:30 am — Racial Justice Initiative Book Read. https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/2780458086, Meeting ID: 278 045 8086



If you shop on Amazon, please help us by starting at: www.stmatthias.net/Amazon

This Week at St. Matthias From the Pastor's Desk

Masses are celebrated in-person and also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

The Church is open for individual prayer

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

Sunday, Oct 31, 2021 Halloween

8:ooAM	Mass		Church
10:00AM	Mass		Church
10:30AM	RCIA	Parish	Office
12:00PM	Mass		Church
5:00PM	All Soul	's Mass & Remembrance	Church

Monday, Nov 1, 2021, All Saints Day Black Catholic History Month American Indian Heritage Month

8:00AM Mass Church
8:30AM Miraculous Medal Novena Church
9:00AM SMS All Saint Day & Grandfriends
Celebration Church
6:30PM HSA board Mtg. Zoom

Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021 All Soul's Day, Election Day

8:00AMDaily MassChurch6:30PMSAC Mtg.de Porres Rm7:30PMSVDP Mtg.Zoom

Wednesday, Nov 3, 2021, St. Martin de Porres

8:00AM Mass Church
8:30AM St. Joseph Intercession Prayer
9:30AM Prayer Group-Holy Spirit de Porres Rm
1:00PM NPM Mtg. de Porres Rm
7:00PM Bereavement Support Grp. Zoom
7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, Nov 4, 2021, St. Charles Borromeo

8:00AM Mass Church 3:30PM Children's Choir gr. 3 & 4 rehearsal Church 4:15PM Children's Choir 5th-8th gr. rehearsal

7:30PM Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal Church 8:00PM K of C Mtg. Cafeteria

Friday, Nov 5, 2021, SMS dismissal 12:15pm

8:30AM Paily Mass Church
8:30AM First Friday Holy Hour Church

Saturday, Nov 6, 2021,

3:30PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Church 5:00PM Mass Feast of St. Martin de Porres Church

Sunday Nov 7, 2021

Daylight Savings Time Ends

8:00AM Mass Church
10:00AM Mass Church
12:00PM Mass Church
2:00PM GIFT Church, classrms, John XXIII Rm

Dear Friends,

November 1, 2 & 3 are all very important days for us. The annual observance of All Saints Day and All Souls Day make us think lovingly of those who are no more with us. At all the Masses this weekend, we are remembering in prayer all our dearly departed ones. All Souls Day Mass intention envelopes on the altar during November are a visible reminder to us to keep the mer



altar during November are a visible reminder to us to keep the memory of our loved ones alive. You can read in this bulletin why the Church gives so much importance to the holy souls. 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."

There are many in our parish who are grieving a dear one who passed into eternity this year. We have a very meaningful Memorial Mass this evening to remember them and thank God for their lives with us in a special way. A Scottish poet has written, "If I have done anything in life, it is because I was able to stand on the shoulders of my dad." The memory of our near and dear ones is a reminder that we need to be grateful to them for their love and sacrifices because they have a big share in what we are today.

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." The 'All Saints' we honor are not only the canonized saints, but also what Pope Francis calls the "saints next door." He explains it thus: "I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile. In their daily perseverance, I see the holiness of the Church militant. Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbors, those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence. We might call them "the middle class of holiness."

The feast of St. Martin de Porres is on November 3. Born in Peru to a Spanish gentleman and a freed slave from Panama, of possibly African descent, Martin experienced a great deal of ridicule for his mixed-race origin. Such an early experience of racial and social prejudices could have made him a bitter man, but he chose to hold no anger but love towards all. He joined the Dominicans as a 'lay helper' but was accepted as a full-fledged Religious Brother due to his prayer, penance and humility. His days were filled with nursing the sick and caring for the poor. It was particularly impressive that he treated all people regardless of their color, race, or status. The weekend after his feast is an ideal time to launch the Social Justice Initiative that the Parish Pastoral Council has been planning. All the justice-related issues fall under the umbrella of Social Justice Initiative. Our Parish has the St. Martin de Porres Society trying to live and promote the values that St Martin espoused and it is good that the SMDP society has already announced the Racial Justice Initiative. Happy Feast of St. Martin de Porres! Happy Feast of All Saints!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week Mass Intentions for the Week Saturday, Oct 30 5:00PM Angela Frigiola, The Dudajek Family Monday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5 Sunday, Oct 31 8:00AM Carmen Reviriego, The Decker Family -6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a 10:00AM John P. Didie IV, by Noreen Leib **Tuesday**: Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; 12:00PM Emma Himey, By Dee Nann (5:30PM) Intention of Parishioners Rom 6:3-9; Jn 6:37-40 Monday, Nov 1 **Deceased Family Members** 8:ooAM Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10; Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9; 8:00AM Deceased Members of ValdezoGuzman Families, by Tuesday, Nov 2 Lk 14:25-33 Thursday: Rom 14:7-12; Ps 27:1bcde, 4, 13-14; Wednesday, Nov 3 8:ooAM Hildegard Scheurle, by Alfonso & Linda Misuraca Lk 15:1-10 Thursday, Nov 4 8:ooAM Nancy Collins, by Marty Collins Friday: Rom 15:14-21; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Lk 16:1-8 Friday, Nov 5 8:00AM John F. Collins, by Marty Collins Saturday: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11; Lk 16:9-15 Saturday, Nov 6 5:00PM Jack Meagher, by son, Tom Meagher Sunday, Nov 7 8:00AM Darrie Christmas, by Anne Marie Francis **Sunday:** 1 Kgs 17:10-16; Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10; Heb 9:24-28; Mk 12:38-44 or Mk 12:41-44 10:00AM Charles Connelly, by The Family 12:00PM Hildegard Scheurle, by Gil & Ellin Ossandon (5:30PM) Intention of Parishioners

Pray for Those Getting Married...

Gina Carter & Nick Recine Friday November 19, 2021

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** 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 Maria Barreiro Virginia Briggs Marie Brody **Thomas Burns** Tara Capatosto Ellen Catalina Sean Clancy Barbara Coan Tom Current Joseph DeFrancesco Cenon DeGuzman Mary Ellen Delaney Alaina Derecola Surya & Juliany Dharma Jim Dolan

Mary Dolan William Dolphin John Farkas Claudia Gemgnani **Emma Gergely** Rose Gessner Mary Gidaro Jill Gordon-Szabo Sloopy Hoffman Baby Isla-Rose Huffman Kathleen Lagenbacher Al & Rose Larangeira The Litrakis Family Al Maglio Sue Maglio-Alese **Beatrice May**

Dave Moynihan
Baby Ezran Natural
Patricia Nese
Danny Ochangco
Jim Pettit
Christina Pietrowiak
Oscar Poisler
Baby Griffin Rademaker
Kevin Reavey
Chris Retz
Ann Ritchick
Angela Romanek
Rudy Schaar
Maria Schwenzer

Margaret Menendez

Gail Miranda

Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Catherine Slootmaker
Encarnacion (Gina) So
Alessandro Spagnolo
Dennis Stuewe
Jeff Tami
Maureen Tropea
Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth
Eulalia Villanueva
Judi Wojna
Mark T. Worthington

Everyone who is ill with Covid-19

...and for all who are homebound,

elderly, in nursing care, or living with

chronic illness

Pray for those who have died...

—— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

Jean McCann Anthony Stankovich Visitacion (Vee) Stanford



Smile with Your Family



The child's commandments:

A Sunday school teacher was talking to a class of five- and six-year-olds about the Ten Commandments. "Can you give me a Commandment with only four words?" she asked. "I know," said a little girl: "Keep off the grass." The discussion turned to family love and the teacher brought in the Commandment, "Honor thy father and thy mother."

Then she asked, "What about a Commandment that tells us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" A little boy who had five brothers and sisters was quick to answer: "I know," he said, "You shall not kill."

When the class ended, two of the boys began to poke each other. The teacher intervened saying, "Didn't we just finish talking about the Golden Rule?" to which one of the little combatants replied, "Yes but he did it unto me first."

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!

reminisce about their saintly qualities.

Marriage Tune-Up

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." (Mark 12:31) Yes, this is true. In addition to wholehearted love of God, can you also say this about your beloved spouse since God lives in him or her also?

Parenting Tune-Up

(All Souls Day) How well do your children know their deceased relatives? Why not help them remember by praying for each by name today. Go back as far as you can remember and perhaps

All Soul's Day: Ancient Belief and Traditions



People of all religions have believed in the immortality of the soul and have prayed for the dead:

- 1) The Jews, for example, believed that there was a place of temporary bondage 4) The early Fathers of the Church enfrom which the souls of the dead would receive their final release. The Jewish catechism Talmud states that prayers for Masses for the dead, advising widows to the dead will help to bring greater rewards and blessings to them. Prayer for the souls of the departed is retained by Orthodox Jews today, who recite a prayer known as the Mourner's Kaddish for eleven months after the death of a loved the altar" (St. Augustine of Hippo, Confesone so that he/she may be purified.
- 2) First century practice: Jesus and the apostles shared this belief and passed it on to the early Church. "Remember us who have gone before you, in your prayers," is a petition often found inscribed on the walls of the Roman catacombs

(Lumen Gentium-50).

- 3) The liturgies of the Mass in various rites dating from the early centuries of the Church include "Prayers for the Dead."
- couraged this practice. Tertullian (A.D. 160-240) wrote about the anniversary pray for their husbands. St. Augustine remarked that he used to pray for his deceased mother, remembering her request: | When I die, bury me anywhere you like, but remember to pray for me at sions, Book 3, Chapter 55, Section 61).
- 5) The Synods of Nicaea, Florence and Trent encouraged the offering of prayers for the dead, citing Scriptural evidences to prove that there is a place or state of purification for those who die with venial sins on their souls.

A Pearl of Wisdom for this Week:

Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.

Some years ago, Canadian sociologist Reginald Bibby reports of Canadians, "Eightyeight percent know their astrological signs, with half of the entire population reading their horoscopes at least once a month, outnumbering Bible readers by two to one."

Wouldn't it be great if 88% of the people were starting their day with the Word of God, not the alignment of the stars?

Why Celebrate All Soul's Day?

Theological reasoning: According to Revelation 21:27: "nothing unclean shall enter Heaven." Holy Scripture (Proverbs 24:16) also teaches that even "the just sin seven times a day." Since it would be contrary to the mercy of God to punish such souls with venial sins in Hell, they are seen as entering a place or state of purification, called Purgatory, which combines God's justice with His mercy. This teaching is also contained in the doctrine of the Communion of Saints.

Biblical evidence:

- 1) II Maccabees, 12:46 is the main Biblical text incorporating the Jewish belief in the necessity of prayer and sacrifice for the dead. The passage (II Maccabees 12:39-46), describes how Judas, the military commander, "took up a collection from all his men, totaling about four pounds of silver and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering" (II Mc 12:43). The narrator continues, "If he had not believed that the dead would be raised, it would have been foolish and useless to pray for them."
- 2) St. Paul seems to have shared this traditional Jewish belief. At the death of his supporter Onesiphorus, he prayed: "May the Lord grant him mercy on that Day" (II Timothy: 1:18). Other pertinent Bible texts: Matthew 12:32, I Corinthians, 3:15, Zechariah 13:19, Sirach 7:33.

The Church's teaching: The Church's official teaching on Purgatory is plain and simple. There is a state of purification called *Purgatory*, where souls undergoing purification can be helped by the prayers of the faithful (Council of Trent). Some modern theologians speak of Purgatory as an "instant" purification immediately after death, varying in intensity from soul to soul, depending on the state of each individual.

How do we help the "holy souls"? The Catechism of the Catholic Church recommends prayer for the dead in conjunction with the offering of the Eucharistic Sacrifice and also encourages "almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead" (CCC #1032). Let us not forget to pray for our dear departed, have Masses offered to thank God for their life in which we too shared, visit their graves, and practice the good values in our lives.

Which is the Right Religion?



Moses Mendelson tells the story of a woman who came to a great teacher and asked him: "Teacher, how do I know which religion is the right one?" The teacher replied with a story of a great and wise King with three sons. This King had a precious gift--a magic ring that gave him great compassion, generosity, and a spirit of

kindness. As he was dying, each of his sons went to him and asked the father for the ring after his death. And he promised to each of the sons that he would give him the ring. Now how could he possibly do that for all three sons? Here's what he did. Before he died he called in the finest jewelry maker of the land and asked him to make two identical copies of the ring. After his death each of his sons was presented with a ring. Well, it wasn't long before each of the sons figured out that his brothers also had a ring and therefore two of them had to be fakes. Only one of them could be the genuine article. And so they went before a judge and asked the judge to help them determine which the authentic ring was. Then they could determine who the proper heir was. The judge, however, could not distinguish among the three rings.

And so he said: "We shall watch and see which son behaves in the most gracious, generous, and kind manner. Then we will know which possesses the original ring." And from that day on, each son lived as if he was

the one with the magic ring, and no one could tell which was the most gracious, generous, and kind. Then the teacher, having told this story, said to the woman, "If you wish to know which religion is true, watch and see which reveals God's love for the world."



A Halloween 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.

Faith in God or the Stars?

Some years ago, Canadian sociologist Reginald Bibby reports of Canadians, "Eighty-eight percent know their astrological signs, with half of the entire population reading their horoscopes at least once a month, outnumbering Bible readers by two to one." Wouldn't it be great if 88% of the people were starting their day with the Word of God, not the alignment of the stars?



How to Write a Love Letter

"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength...' 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself... 'There is no other commandment greater than this."

Mark 12: 28-34



Have you ever written a love letter? How did it go? Did it express what you wanted to say to the one you loved? Did it touch the heart of your beloved? Or was is

"dismissed" as "nice" or "precious" and put aside like a greeting card? There's an art to writing a love letter. Tom Chiarella, a professor of creative writing at DePauw, chronicles his own successes and failures at writing love letters in a piece for **Esquire** Magazine. He offers these tips to anyone trying to write a good love letter.

Remember, first, that it's a letter, not a card. If what you want to express is a sentiment that you can buy, then what you're feeling might not be love. Sit down and write. Letters take time; letters have a rhythm. There are no bullet points. No clipping and pasting The words have to be yours. Keep in mind that the purpose of a love letter is to acknowledge, Chiarella advises. You're creating a record of the previous four months or two weeks or that day or the very moment in which you find yourself. A good love letter is about memory. Let example precede sentiment. Show your beloved what you love about him or her before you tell them what you love about them. Don't overdo the earnestness or the genuineness. Strive for clarity. And remember that a love letter is private and therefore it can bear some risk. In this way, a love letter is like love itself.

A well-written and thought-out love letter requires the same totality and focus that Jesus speaks of in today's Gospel. To love as God loves us demands every element of who we are - our heart, our soul, our mind, our strength; our full attention, our time, our gratitude. Like a good love letter, love begins with a commitment of time and attention. Love is expressed in our words, however clumsy and unsophisticated they may be, but the words must come from our hearts. Love is discovered and nurtured in memories - we are attuned to and cherish those moments in which the love of God becomes real to us in the goodness and grace of the one we love. And the love of God forces us outside our comfort zone, to put our own feelings and wants on the line, to risk being hurt or misunderstood for the sake of the beloved. It is in such complete and uncompromising love that we most resemble God; it is in selfless and simple generosity and giving that we participate in the very life of God.

Bishop Barron: 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 halfwizard, 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.".

All Saints: Who & Why?

All baptized Christians who have died and are now with God in glory are considered saints. All Saints Day is a day on which we thank God for giving ordinary men and women a share in His holiness and Heavenly glory as a reward for their Faith. In fact, we celebrate the feast of each canonized saint on a particular day of the year. But there are countless other saints and martyrs, men, women and children united with God in Heavenly glory, whose feasts we do not celebrate. Among these would be our own parents and grandparents, brothers and sisters who were heroic women and men of Faith. All Saints' Day is intended to honor their memory. Hence, today's feast can be called the feast of the Unknown Saint, in line with the tradition of the "Unknown Soldier."

(continued on next page)

Reflect

All Saints Who & Why? (continued) According to Pope Urban IV, All Saints' Day is also intended to supply any deficiencies in our celebration of saints' feasts during the year. In addition, the feast is observed to teach us to honor the saints, both by imitating their lives

and by seeking their intercession for us before Christ, the only mediator between God and man (I Tim. 6:9). Today, the Church reminds us that God's call for holiness is universal, that all of us are called to live in His love and to make His love real in the lives of those

around us. Holiness is related to the word wholesomeness. We show holiness when we live lives of integrity and truth, that is, wholesome and integrated lives in which we are close to others while being close to God.

From the Pastoral Staff

Today's Gospel is one of my favorites. It the world needs now is love. It's the talks about the greatest commandment.

Love God with all your heart, all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. And the second is: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

For most of us loving God isn't a problem. But for many of us, loving our neighbors isn't all that easy.

The question has always been who exactly our neighbor is. The answer is simple. All the people God created that we share the earth with are our neighbors — bar none.

It is estimated that there have been over 100 million songs written about or containing the word love.

One of my favorite songs about love was from the 60's by Jackie DeShannon. It's "What the world needs now is Love". The lyrics are so poignant for our world today. "What only thing that there's just too little of. What the world needs now is love. No not for some, but for everyone."

To me these lyrics capture what Jesus wants us to do — love our neighbors as ourselves.

The ancient Greeks studied love and denoted each type giving each one a Greek name. Here they are:

- Philia affectionate love
- Pragma enduring love
- Storge familiar love
- Eros romantic love
- Ludus playful love
- Mania obsessive love
- Philautia self-love

And the last is Agape - selfless love.

Agape is the highest form of love to offer. It's given without any expectations of receiving anything in return. Agape is the type of love that Jesus is

speaking about in the Gospel regarding our love of neighbors.

It is the highest form of love. and probably for most of us, the most difficult.



Here are some tips to show Agape.

- Spend some of your time helping to improve the lives of others.
- Offer your time and charity to someone in need.
- Stay conscious of your actions for the good of others.
- Try doing some random acts of kindness.

Remember the world needs more love — your love — not just for some, but for everyone.

Peace of Christ

Deacon Russ

Pray



The Saint Matthias Vocations Ministry Team invites you to a Morning of Reflection on Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 830 am. The Morning of Reflection will take place in the John XXIII room in the school

building.

During the Morning of Reflection attendees will hear a variety of speakers share their experience of responding to God's call to vocation. Attendees will have the opportunity to pray and reflect on how they are being called by God to vocation and how responding to that call can lead to

A Morning of Reflection

fulfillment and happiness.

A light continental breakfast will be provided at 8:30 am. Activities will get underway promptly at 9am. We will close out the morning with lunch at noon.

Please join us in what will be a very special morning. Attendance will be limited so please register now using this link:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090544a9ac2dabf94-

More information can be found on the St. Matthias web site at https://www.stmatthias.net/vocations/ We look forward to seeing you on November 13th! Have a great day!

Pray



Novena for Saint Joseph

We will be praying a novena to St. Joseph on the first

Wednesday of the month until the end of this year.

Join us at the 8:00 AM Mass this Wed., Nov. 3, 2021.



October Baptisms

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

Geneva Marie Georgiana Maximo Moises Modesto Jacob Rylan Pena

Zadkiel Torres

Learn

NOVEMBER is Black Catholic History Month

Text adapted and edited from information on Black Catholic History Month hosted by the Archdiocese of Washington, DC

On July 24, 1990, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States designated November as Black Catholic History Month to celebrate the long history and proud heritage of Black Catholics. Two commemorative dates fall within this month, Saint Augustine's Birthday (November 13) and Saint Martin de Porres' Feast Day (November 3). During the month of November, which marks a time when we pray for all saints and souls in loving remembrance, we take time to recall in a special way the saints and souls of Africa and the African Diaspora.

St. Matthias will celebrate at the 5:00 Mass on Saturday, November 6th when we honor the St. Martin de Porres Feast Day.

The St. Martin de Porres Society of St. Matthias will also celebrate de Porres' Feast Day with the launch of its Racial Justice Initiative. Our core group will be on hand at all Masses THIS WEEK-END to talk about the vision and goals of the group.



Servant of God Sister The Bowman



Venerable



Venerable



Venerable Henriette De Lille Pierre Toussaint Fr. Augustus Tolton Julia Greeley



Servant of God

Political **Engagement** Is Part of our Catholic Call

In their statement on Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, the U.S. Catholic bishops urge Catholics to form their consciences through being open to truth, studying Scripture and Church teaching, examining facts and background information, and prayerful reflection (no. 18). Visit FaithfulCitizenship.org to learn about the steps you can take to form your conscience, watch videos and access other great resources on conscience formation for faithful citizens.

Give (and Receive!)

Do You Have Your Super 50-50 Tickets?

Our parish will draw the winning ticket for our yearly Super 50/50 on Sunday, November 21, after the 10AM Mass -- the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Tickets are available in the Parish Office and can be returned in an envelope in the collection basket, or by mailing them to St. Matthias Church, 168 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Somerset, NJ 08873. All tickets must be returned to the Parish Office by 12 NOON,

Thursday, November 18.

This yearly fundraiser helps to fund the many vital ministries of our parish. By supporting this important effort you not only help our parish but, happily, if you win, Christmas will look very bright!

Take a chance; this could be your year to win!



Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Reflection Oct 31, 2021

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

"And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices." (Mark 12:33)

Of all the gifts that God gives us, the one He wants the most is our heart. He wants us to share out of our love for Him, not out of obligation. Using our talent in parish ministry and contributing money to support our parish mission is important, but it's more important to spend time in prayer with God daily and discern how He is calling us to be generous with <u>all</u> of our gifts. Not just the visible ones, but the invisible ones like love, mercy and forgiveness.

Reflexiónese — 31de octubre 2021

Domingo 30° del Tiempo Ordinario

"Y amar a Dios con todo el corazón, con todo el entendimiento y con todas las fuerzas, y amar al prójimo como a uno mismo, es más importante que todos los holocaustos y todos los sacrificios." (Marcos 12:33)

De todos los dones que Dios nos da, Él que más quiere es nuestro corazón. Él quiere que compartamos por amor a Él, no por obligación. Utilizar nuestro talento en el ministerio parroquial y contribuir con dinero para apoyar nuestra misión parroquial es importante, pero más importante es pasar tiempo en oración con Dios diariamente y discernir como Él nos llama a ser generosos con todos nuestros dones. No solamente los visibles, sino los invisibles como el amor, la misericordia y el perdón.

Stewardship T	Last Year's Total			
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 14 - Oct. 3, 2021	\$20,669.00	\$14,890.25	\$35,559.25	\$22,124.68
Week 15 - Oct. 10, 2021	\$9,061.00	\$25,751.75	\$34,812.75	\$24,498.28
Week 16 - Oct. 17, 2021	\$7,983.00	\$12,834.25	\$20,817.25	\$33,007.63
Week 17 - Oct. 24, 2021	\$9,836.00	\$11,715.25	\$21,551.25	\$23,499.63
			Month-to-date Total	Oct Total Last Yr
			\$112,740.50	\$130,082.52
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Oct 31, 2020
			\$435,344.16	\$427,985.81

Thank YOU for Shopping on St. Matthias' Amazon Account

Since January 2021, we have received \$ 358.99, thanks to you! Please continue to start all future Amazon shopping by clicking on the link at: www.stmatthias.net/amazon. Thank you!



Serve



Volunteers Needed to Help with the Christmas Trees

Our Christmas trees will be delivered in just 3 weeks! On **Saturday, November 20**, we need volunteers to help us carry the trees from the delivery truck to the posts and attach them to posts. On **Saturday, November 27**, at 10 am, we need volunteers to help us hang the Christmas lights on the trees. If you are able to volunteer for either (or both) Saturdays, please email Mary Pat Burke-Grospin at mpburke-grospin@smtatthias.net. As of now we have 263 trees to be mounted & lit.

Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Oct 31, 2021

Pope Francis in "Gaudete et Exsultate" on the call to holiness in today's world says:

Could the Holy Spirit urge us to carry out a mission and then ask us to abandon it, or not fully engage in it, so as to preserve our inner peace? Yet there are times when we are tempted to relegate pastoral engagement or commitment in the world to second place, as if these were

"distractions" along the path to growth in holiness and

interior peace. We can forget that "life does not have a mission, but is a mission"

God reminds us that our road to holiness may seem very challenging at times but we should be courageous enough to carry the cross through. We must not relent. A noble priest once stated that "to work is to pray". Vocation is our commitment to God.



Local Community



"Clothed in Christ: A Weekend Retreat for Women



Loyola Jesuit Center, 161 James St., Morristown, NJ 07960

973-539-0740, retreathouse@loyola.org.

November 5-7 – This retreat is ON-SITE with no social distancing. Please call or e-mail for details & to register.

In God's Image — Nov. 10, 2021 at 7PM

In God's Image, the Catholic Faith Sharing Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM. Our next meeting is November 10 and will be both in person and online. Please email for more information. The group is open to LGBTQ adults, 18 and over, and their families. All are welcome for faith sharing, prayer, conversation and support. For more information, contact Fr John at 908 756 0633, ext 125 or the group at 908 822 5895 or sacredheartigi@gmail.com.

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4355 or visit www.standrewparish.com.

The First Brave Step: A Conversation with Ruby Bridges Fri Nov 5, 2021, 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

Leighton Concert Hall (University of Notre Dame) and Zoom



Ruby Bridges escorted by federal marshals on December 1, 1960. "Go where there is no path and begin the trail. When you start a new trail equipped with courage, strength and conviction, the only thing that can stop you is you!" Ruby Bridges

The Notre Dame Klau Center for Civil and Human Rights will host an intimate conversation with Ruby Bridges, an iconic figure in US civil rights history, and an inspiring figure in the ongoing struggle for racial justice. Ms. Bridges will speak as part of the Klau Center's official dedication celebration on November 5, 2021.

We are proud to present this conversation as part of our "Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary" series. The event is free but ticketed. Register to attend by Zoom at the following link: https://klau.nd.edu/news-events/events/2021/11/05/the-first-brave-step-a-conversation-with-ruby-bridges/#attend



How to Vote in Somerset County

This year, Somerset County will allow early voting through 6 pm, October 31. To learn the details for both early and regular voting, visit:

https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/residents/election-guidelines

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council: Co-Chairs:

Claudine Langrin

ClaudMLangrin@ gmail.com and Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell marybeth.vetter @gmail.com Co-Secretaries:

Lorraine Farr and Anne Marie Francis

Rose Peng Frank Rees Maria Tapia-Burch John Taylor Marilyn Wegg Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:Isaac Peng
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council: Joe Porter, Chair

FinanceCouncil @stmatthias.net

Susan Klimcsak Barry Dusault Gwen Orlowski Audrey Francis Kester Hector 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.

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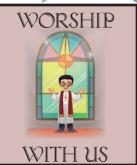
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