



St. Matthias Parish Office

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

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

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

Anthony Baio, Maintenance
Deacon Ron Caimi, Senior Deacon
Kelly Counts, Receptionist, kcounts
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, rdemkovitz
Nathalie Godet, Website & Bulletin Editor,
ngodet

Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Coordinator, lguillen
Amy Hanna, Accountant/Databases, ahanna
Mike Lanyi, Sacristan
Sue Lenczewski, Youth Coordinator, SMYLE
Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor
Debra Schurko, Director of Religious Education,
dschurko

Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper, vnatale
Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper
Deacon John Radvanski, deaconjohn
Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for
Music Ministry, jseamon

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Whoever does not accept
the kingdom of God like a
child will not enter it

Mark 10:15



© JPPC

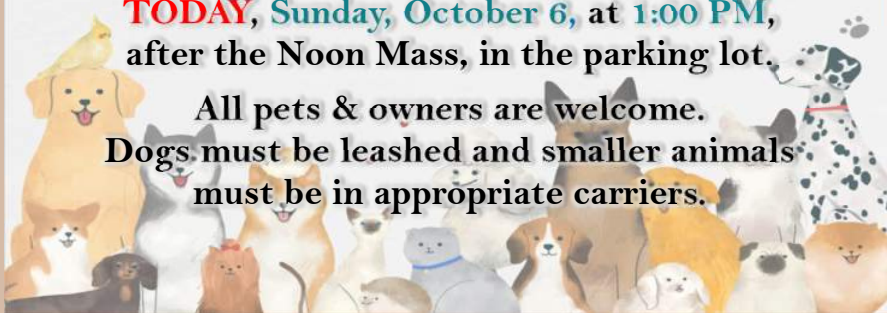
SPECIAL COLLECTION TODAY FOR THE EMUSOI CENTER

See page 7 for details.



The blessing of our beloved pets will take place
TODAY, Sunday, October 6, at 1:00 PM,
after the Noon Mass, in the parking lot.

All pets & owners are welcome.
Dogs must be leashed and smaller animals
must be in appropriate carriers.



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME
QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.
OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING,
OCTOBER 7, 2024 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.
WHEN THE DEACON IS AVAILABLE,
WE CONCLUDE ADORATION WITH A BENEDICTION.

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

The Church is open for individual prayer

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

Sunday, Oct 6, 2024

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 10:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 11:00AM | RCIA | Cafeteria |
| 11:00AM | Rosary Altar Society Mtg. | John XXIII Rm |
| 12:00PM | Mass | Church |
| 1:00PM | Blessing of the Animals | Parking Lot |
| 2:00PM | GIFT | Church |

Monday, Oct 7, 2024 Our Lady of the Rosary

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Miraculous Medal | Church |
| 6:00PM | Eucharistic Adoration | | Church |

Tuesday, Oct 8, 2024 Sts. Sergius & Bacchus, Martyrs SMS Book Fair

| | | |
|--------|-----------|---------------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 6:00PM | Book Fair | John XXIII Rm |
| 6:30PM | GIFT | Church |
| 6:30PM | SAC Mtg. | de Porres Rm |

Wednesday, Oct 9, 2024 John Leonardi, Apostle SMS Book Fair

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | St. Joseph Novena | Church |
| 9:30AM | Holy Spirit Prayer Group | | de Porres Rm |
| 2:00PM | Bereavement Gathering | | de Porres Rm |
| 2:00PM | Alzheimer's Support Group | | ZOOM |
| 6:00PM | Book Fair | | John XXIII Rm |
| 6:00PM | HSA General Meeting | | Cafeteria |

Thursday, Oct 10, 2024 St. Francis Borgia, Priest SMS Book Fair

| | | |
|--------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 3:30PM | Children's Choir, Gr. 3&4 | Church |
| 4:00PM | Children's Choir Gr. 5-8 | Church |
| 7:00PM | Catholic Social Teaching | John XXIII Rm |
| 7:30PM | Adult Choir Rehearsal | Church |

Friday, Oct 11, 2024 St. John XXIII, Pope SMS Dismissal 12:15 PM, Faculty Mtg.

| | | |
|--------|------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
|--------|------|--------|

Saturday, Oct 12, 2024 St. Wilfrid, Bishop

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 12:00PM | Octoberfest- Corn Hole Tournament | Rear Parking Lot |
| 3:30PM | Reconciliation | Church |
| 5:00PM | Vigil Mass | Church |

Sunday, Oct 13, 2024 Fall into Faith Begins

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 10:00AM | 1st Reconciliation #1 | Church |
| 10:00AM | Mass Sign Language Interpreter | Church |
| 11:00AM | RCIA | Cafeteria |
| 12:00PM | Mass | Church |

BULLETIN ARTICLE REQUESTS:

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

Last Sunday I wrote about October as the Respect Life month. It is also the month of the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily because the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on October 7. Mary is said to have appeared to St. Dominic in 1206 after he had been praying and doing severe penances because of his lack of success in combating the Albigensian heresy. Mary praised him for his valiant fight against the heretics and then gave him the Rosary as a mighty weapon, explained its uses and efficacy, and told him to preach it to others.

Recently I had the privilege of joining about 50 Catholics from various parishes, including ours, to go on a pilgrimage to Ireland, Scotland and the UK. Among the many shrines, basilicas, castles, ancient monuments and museums we visited, two Marian shrines stood out for me: the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock in Ireland and the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in the UK.

The Story of Knock in East Mayo began on the 21st August 1879 when Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist appeared at the south gable of Knock Parish Church. Many men and women, whose ages ranged from five years to seventy-five, witnessed what they claimed was an apparition of Our Lady, St Joseph, and St John the Evangelist at the south gable end of the local small parish church. Behind them and a little to the left of St John was a plain altar. On the altar was a cross and a lamb (a traditional image of Jesus, as reflected in the religious phrase The Lamb of God) with adoring angels.

The guide explained to us that there was no message given by Mary. She just stood there in front of the altar and lamb with her hands folded. But in her silence she said so much. Like any child knows, a mother's silence is powerful. Our Lady of Knock does the same thing; she does not say a word because our focus is not meant to be on her, our focus is meant to be on what is behind her: the lamb (symbol of Jesus) and the altar. Mary's whole life and mission is to bring us closer to her son.

This tells us that the Rosary is not so much about Mary as it is about her Son Jesus. Rosary is Christo-centric! Her only desire and command all is: "Do what he tells you" (John 2:5) We need to open the gospels to understand what he tells us. The FALL INTO FAITH small faith sharing groups are the best opportunity for us to understand His Word better (see page 4). As you hear the witness stories of those who have benefitted from these groups, I urge you to consider signing up for this wonderful experience. It is not a long-term commitment – just six times during this Fall season.

The resource we are using is paid for by the parish for the participants, We need to know how many will participate in this faith-enhancing opportunity as we are contracting with a Catholic publishing company. If you are part of an already existing group, kindly let your group leader know if you intent to do it this time – I hope you will. If you are a first-timer, please contact Debbie Schurko, our DRE, at dschurko@stmatthias.net How I wish more of you will utilize this beautiful chance to grow more into His Word!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday Gal 1:6-12 Ps 111:1B-2, 7-8, 9 and 10C Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday Gal 1:13-24 Ps 139:1B-3, 13-14AB, 14C-15 Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday Gal 2:1-2, 7-14 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Lk 11:1-4

Thursday Gal 3:1-5 Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75 Lk 11:5-13

Friday Gal 3:7-14 Ps 111:1B-2, 3-4, 5-6 Lk 11:15-26

Saturday Gal 3:22-29 Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Lk 11:27-28

Sunday Wis 7:7-11 Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 Heb 4:12-13 Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27



Mass Intentions for the Week

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|--|
| Saturday, October 5 | 5:00PM | Isabelle Doyle, by Isabelle & John Baker |
| Sunday, October 6 | 8:00AM | Intention of Parishioners |
| | 10:00AM | In Memory of our Deceased Rosarians, by Rosary Altar Society |
| | 10:00AM | Marie Prezotti, by Helen |
| | 12:00PM | Jose Alomia, by The Capuno Family |
| | 12:00PM | Myrna H. Ignacio, by Susan Tiongson |
| Monday, October 7 | 8:00AM | Jack Shafranski, by The Podlaski Family |
| | 8:00AM | Marta Candeladria, by Ellen Browne |
| Tuesday, October 8 | 8:00AM | Jeffrey Curran, by Myrna & Friends |
| Wednesday, October 9 | 8:00AM | Lorraine Sabella, by Rosary Altar Society |
| | 8:00AM | Ellin & Gil Ossandon, by The Prayer Group Friends |
| Thursday, October 10 | 8:00AM | Richard McDermott, by Pat & Frank Sellinger |
| Friday, October 11 | 8:00AM | Thanksgiving to God for His countless blessings, by Judith James |
| | 8:00AM | Ermina Tagaan, by Samuel Tagaan |
| Saturday, October 12 | 5:00PM | Emily & Frank Gatarz, by Claire |
| | 5:00PM | John Dolak, Jr., by Eileen King |
| Sunday, October 13 | 8:00AM | Gloria Kowalski, by Denise Szabo |
| | 10:00AM | Harold Wyckoff, by Tom Fullerton |
| | 10:00AM | AnnMarie Carfora, by Suzanne Adams |
| | 12:00PM | Intention of Parishioners |
| | 12:00PM | Arthur & Clelia Ronco, by daughter, Monica |

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.

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

Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

Bill Datri, brother-in-law of Joe Percoco

James R. DeMonic Sr.

Maria Crisofulli

Anna Ritchick

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



"My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't." ☺

"The secret of my success in my married life and in my business is the same", said, Henry Ford on the 50th anniversary of his wedding, "I don't change models every now and then; instead I stick on to one and try to improve it." ☺

A man tells his wife of 15 years that it feels like they've only been married for 5 minutes, the wife says that's so sweet, and he says yeah like 5 minutes under water. ☺

The graveside service had just ended when there was a frightening clap of thunder, followed by a tremendous bolt of lightning accompanied by even louder thunder. The little old man looked at the pastor and said calmly, "Well, she's there." ☺

I once gave my husband the silent treatment for an entire week, at the end of which he declared, "Hey, we're getting along pretty great lately!" ☺

My wife told me I'm the best person she has ever married! ☺

A little boy asked his father how much does it cost to get Married, Daddy? He said, I don't know son, I'm still paying for it... ☺

After Adam stayed out late a few nights, Eve became suspicious. "You're running around with another woman—admit it!" she demanded. "What other woman?" Adam shot back. "You're it!" That night, Adam was fast asleep when he was awakened by Eve poking him in the chest. That are you doing?" "Counting your ribs." ☺



Parenting Tune-Up

During this Respect Life Month pick the life issue that you feel most strongly about (preventing abortion, supporting new mothers, helping those whose lives are mired in poverty, caring for the frail elderly, working for gun control, eliminating the death penalty, bullying...) Tell your child why this is important to you.

Marriage Tune-Up



"It is not good for the man to be alone." (Genesis 2:18) Indeed, it is not good for anyone to be alone. In marriage you are blessed to have chosen a helpmate to share your spiritual journey toward home. Make some time to be alone together today. (Susan Vogt)

A Pearl of Wisdom For This Week

**Every Test in Our Life Makes Us Bitter Or Better;
Every Problem Comes To Make Us Or Break Us;
The Choice is Ours Whether We Become Victims Or Victorious.**



Make Fall Into Faith 2024 the Best Season of the Year!

Start for the first time or continue with a St. Matthias Small Faith Sharing Group!
We have about 15 groups that meet on various days/times of the week.

If you are new to this experience, please sign up at <https://forms.gle/7D2CnG8ZcBTJuSfC7>

YOU CAN STILL JOIN SMALL GROUPS

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

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

The Heart that Fixes and Mends

"Because of the hardness of your hearts, [Moses] wrote this commandment . . . [T]hey are no longer two but one flesh." " . . . Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Mark 10: 2-16

An adult - now a spouse and parent himself - remembers his mom and dad: "I grew up in the '50s with very practical parents. A mother, God love her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen, before they had a name for it. My father was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones. Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now: Dad in trousers, tee shirt and a hat, with screwdrivers and wrenches going from one project to the next; and Mom in a house dress, a dish towel or some cooking utensil always in her hand. "It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, the screen door, the oven door, the hem of a dress. Things we keep. It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, re-heating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.

"But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more. Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away . . . never to return. So, while we have it . . . it's best we love it . . . and care for it . . . and fix it when it's broken . . . and heal it when it's sick. "This is true for marriage . . . and old cars . . . and children with bad report cards . . . and dogs with bad hips . . . and aging parents . . . and grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it."

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of marriage as the joining of two hearts into one by God, a single heart that loves, that lifts up, that mends other broken hearts - including, when necessary, each other's. That is the mystery and wonder of the marriage covenant. A couple's life together and their generous response to the vocation of parenthood model the unfathomable and profound love of God. Marriage demands not perfection but commitment; it requires the hard work of patience, understanding and humility; despite disappointment and failed expectations, marriage centered in the love of God always moves beyond "hardness of heart" to embrace a spirit of generosity and selflessness. In the life a couple creates together, Christ is the ever-present Wedding Guest, who makes a couple's simple, everyday life together a miraculous sacrament in which the love of God is revealed to all.

Guinness World Record for the Longest Marriage!

A British couple holds the Guinness world record for the longest marriage. Percy and Florence Arrowsmith married on June 1, 1925 and celebrated their 80th anniversary on June 1, 2005. "I think we're very blessed," Florence, 100, told the BBC. "We still love one another, that's the most important part." Asked for the secret of their long marriage, Florence said you must never be afraid to say "sorry." "You must never go to sleep bad friends," she said. Of course, she's right. There are times in every marriage for forgiving and forgetting and saying, "I'm sorry" and going to sleep good friends. That's positive sentiment override. By the way, Florence's husband Percy, 105, said his secret to marital bliss was just two words: "Yes, dear."

Are you able to overlook one another's faults and forgive one another's mistakes? Marriage demands that the couple should become the right person for each another. It means a union based on committed, sharing and forgiving, sacrificial agape-love. It requires a lot of mutual adjustments; generosity and good will to forgive and ask for forgiveness; sincere cooperation in training children and raising them as practising Catholic Christians; and daily strength from God, obtained through personal and family prayers and punctual participation in the parish liturgy.

Stability in Marriage

Of course, it is not always easy for the two partners in a marriage to get along with each other because marriage though one of the most fulfilling of all relationships is also one of the most demanding. The husband and wife bring to the marriage their strengths and weaknesses, loves and hates, hurts and wounds, hopes and fears. Hence, the first requisite for a lasting marriage is that the spouses learn to accept each other as they are: two imperfect and vulnerable human beings. They are God's gift to each other: *"I will make a suitable partner for him."* They must learn that healing the wounds of family life is as necessary as healing the wounds in the body. In *Familiaris Consortio* (n. 17), Pope St. John Paul II encourages families with the following plea: "Family, become what you are!" This echoes the Second Vatican Council, which calls the family, "the intimate community of life and love in which the partners are nourished spiritually and physically, accept one another as they are, and adjust to each other, deriving strength through prayer, the Word of God, the Sacrament, plus guidance and counseling..." When the marriage relationship breaks down and reconciliation is not possible, the Church recognizes the right of the couple to separate and live apart permanently. If divorced Catholics then enter into a civil marriage, they are allowed to receive Eucharistic Communion only if they refrain from sexual relations.

12 Rules for a Happy Marriage!

Recently I came across the following 12 rules for a happy marriage that had been given by the well-known Ann Landers in her weekly article. Although to my knowledge, Mrs. Landers has never obeyed the Gospel of Christ, I believe she set forth twelve practical suggestions that will promote a happier home environment. These twelve rules are actually Biblical; I have included Scripture references for each rule:

Never both be angry at once (Proverbs 19:11)

Never yell at each other unless the house is on fire (Proverbs 21:23)

Yield to the wishes of the other as an exercise in self-discipline, if you can't think of a better reason (Col. 3:18-19; Ephesians 5:21)

If you have a choice between making yourself or your spouse look good--choose your spouse (Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 19:19)

If you feel you must criticize, do so lovingly (Ephesians 4:15)

Never bring up a mistake of the past (Philippians 3:13-14)

Neglect the whole world rather than each other (Ephesians 5:25-31)

Never let the day end without saying at least one complimentary thing to your life partner (Proverbs 31:26)

Never meet without an affectionate greeting (Proverbs 5:18-19)

When you make a mistake, talk it out and ask for forgiveness (James 5:16)

Remember, it takes two to make an argument. The one who is wrong is the one who will be doing most of the talking (James 3:5-8)

Never go to bed mad (Ecclesiastes 7:9; Colossians 3:8).

Inspirational Quotes on Marriage

"A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers." — Ruth Bell Graham

"There is no more lovely, friendly, and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage." —Martin Luther

"To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with." —Mark Twain

"Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope." — Maya Angelou

"Love doesn't make the world go round; love is what makes the ride worthwhile." —Elizabeth Barrett Browning

"The first to apologize is the bravest. The first to forgive is the strongest. The first to forget is the happiest." Unknown

"I don't know, fill in the Gaps I Guess!"

Perhaps you saw the original Rocky film with Sylvester Stallone. Do you remember the love relationship Rocky had with Adrian in Rocky? She was the little wallflower who worked in the pet shop, the sister of Pauly, an insensitive goon who worked at the meat house and wanted to become a collector of debts for a loan shark. Pauly couldn't understand why Rocky was attracted to Adrian. "I don't see it," he said. "What's the attraction?" Do you remember Rocky's answer? Rocky said, "I don't know -- fills gaps I guess." "What's gaps?" asks Pauly. "She's got gaps," says Rocky, "I got gaps. Together we fill gaps." In his simple but profound way, Rocky hit upon a great truth. He was saying that he and Adrian each had empty places in their lives. But when the two of them got together, they filled those blank spots in one another. [Dennis and Barbara Rainey, *Moments Together for Couples* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 5339).] And that is exactly what God intended. God takes marriage seriously. There are no perfect marriages but there can be great marriages. Those great marriages occur when two people commit themselves to God and to one another.

"Chemistry and Math of Marriage"

Neil Warren, who has studied what he calls the "love secrets" of 100 couples with model marriages, says that his most significant finding is also the most surprising. Here's the most shocking thing you may read in this entire book. Chemistry between two people is responsive to mental and emotional processes over which we have tremendous control. That's right, you can make chemistry happen. If you don't feel the flutter in your heart for your spouse that you once did, if the magic is gone from your relationship, don't panic. You can change that! [Neil Clark Warren, *The Triumphant Marriage* (Dallas: Word Books, 5339), 16.] The phrase "The chemistry just isn't there anymore," should be banished from our vocabulary. Each of us can maximize chemistry to make new chemical reactions happen. The chemistry wrong? Mix up some new chemicals. Stir up some different romance ingredients. Here are some simple rituals of renewal which can keep your marriage romantically potent: Plant a tree together. Give a gift in honor of your marriage. Renew marriage vows. Buy the biggest wedding cake and invite friends over. Exchange gifts of jewelry. But as important as it is to become a good chemist, it is equally important to become a bad mathematician. In marriage, each partner must be willing to put in more than he or she takes out. Each person has to do a little more than what he thinks his share is" [Prescription for a Quality Relationship (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1988).] A lasting marriage is one in which each partner "looks out for number two," not where each one is "looking out for number one."

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 or Mary Frances Reavey at 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.



Metuchen Cursillo Movement

The Cursillo experience is one that will enhance your spiritual life and growth for a lifetime.

Next Men's Weekend: **October 17-20, 2024** at the

Loyola Retreat House, 161 James St, Morristown, NJ.

For more information visit: <http://www.metcursillo.org/>



SPECIAL REQUEST FOR EMUSOI CENTER

As we begin Respect Life Month, we are focusing this year on Sr. Mary Vertucci and the Emusoi Center. Many girls have been prepared for successful careers because of their Emusoi experience.

To quote Sr. Mary Vertucci, "you are the ones we thank for the success of these girls. We need to prepare for school - sewing uniforms, buying mattresses, sheets, blankets, mosquito nets, brooms of all sizes and kinds, buckets, hoes, slashers and school supplies and school fees for the advanced level students and bus fare to schools in all corners of Tanzania. We also have to buy our supply of dried beans and maize for food for 2024-2025. I count on your response to this appeal to pay for these needs. All these needs will cost more than \$40,000, with school fees close to \$50,000.

I thank you all for your faithful support and generosity. I wish you could come visit and see the difference that you are making in these girls' lives. They remember you in their prayers every day. Please pray for us."

Fr. Abraham has agreed to have a special collection on the first weekend of October.

- Fran Johnson, for the Respect Life Ministry

Serve



Alzheimer's Support Group Meets on ZOOM, October 9th at 2:00PM

The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for individuals living with Alzheimer's or Dementia, their care partners, and others dealing with the disease. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, October 9th, from 2:00 pm-3:30 pm on Zoom**. To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group.

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



FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATIONS ARE 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



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](mailto:marylynch@stmatthiasnj.org) mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org & [Tesh Barr](mailto:tbarr@stmatthiasnj.org) tbarr@stmatthiasnj.org or call 732-828-1402 for more information.



FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP WEBINAR

You are invited to join the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Catholic Conferences on **Wednesday, October 9, 2024**, at **6:30 p.m.** for a webinar on the upcoming election. The webinar will focus on how Catholics play a vital role in restoring civility in public discourse. The panel includes representatives from the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Catholic Conferences and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about this event and to register, please visit bit.ly/46ZEW3F.



Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

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

Breakfast menu is pancakes, eggs, sausage, bagels, juice, coffee and much more. We hope to see you there!



Catholic Social Teaching in the Public Square ELECTION 2024 REFLECTION SERIES

Thursday, October 10th, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM in the John XXIII room at St. Matthias.

SESSION 3 - SUBSIDIARITY

Topics discussed will be education equality and economic justice.



The principle of subsidiarity reminds us that larger institutions in society should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local institutions, yet larger institutions have essential responsibilities when the more local institutions cannot adequately protect human dignity, meet human needs, and advance the common good.

Join us as we prayerfully prepare for the upcoming election. ALL ARE WELCOME!

***PLEASE NOTE:** These sessions will be strictly **NON-PARTISAN** and focused solely on issues as they pertain to **RACIAL JUSTICE**.

For more detailed information visit: www.stmatthias.net/election2024/



NOAH LIVE ON STAGE

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

More details, including how to purchase tickets, can be found at: www.stmatthias.net/noah

Give (and Receive!)

| Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 | | | | Last Year's Total |
|---|-------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Current Month | In-Pew/Mail | Parish Giving | Weekly Total | Weekly Total |
| Week 9 - September 1, 2024 | \$8,786.15 | \$10,032.50 | \$18,818.65 | \$24,264.25 |
| Week 10 - September 8, 2024 | \$10,227.00 | \$24,470.00 | \$34,697.00 | \$31,589.06 |
| Week 11 - September 15, 2024 | \$10,452.00 | \$15,767.50 | \$26,219.50 | \$24,225.00 |
| Week 12 - September 22, 2024 | \$8,688.80 | \$12,356.50 | \$21,045.30 | \$18,885.75 |
| Week 13 - September 29, 2024 | \$8,954.00 | \$9,850.50 | | |
| | | | Month-to-date Total | September Total Last Year |
| Building R&R collection: \$3,612.00 | | | \$100,780.45 | \$98,964.06 |
| | | | Current Year-to-date Total | Year-to-date as of Sep 30, 2023 |
| | | | \$302,848.45 | \$219,735.06 |

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 6, 2024
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflexiónese - 6 de octubre de 2024
Domingo 27º del Tiempo Ordinario

“So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.” (GENESIS 2:19)

The creation story reminds us of two important points. First, since the start, God has put the entire world into our care. Second, stewardship has been around since the beginning of mankind, it isn't something recently invented by the Church. Just as past generations built our Church, it is now our responsibility to continue to nurture and develop these gifts for future generations.

“Entonces Dios el Señor formó de la tierra toda ave del cielo y todo animal del campo. Se los llevó al hombre para ver qué nombre les pondría. El hombre puso nombre a todos los seres vivos y con ese nombre se les conoce.” (GENESIS 2:19)

La historia de la creación nos recuerda dos puntos importantes. Primero, desde el inicio, Dios puso el mundo entero a nuestro cuidado. Segundo, la corresponsabilidad ha estado alrededor desde el inicio de la humanidad, no es un invento reciente de la Iglesia. Así como las generaciones pasadas construyeron nuestra Iglesia, ahora es nuestra responsabilidad continuar cultivando y desarrollando estos dones para las generaciones futuras.



**ARE YOU DONE WITH THE HEAT? THINK COOL!
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

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For information & reservations, contact Brian Johnson at
Catholic Cruises & Tours 860-399-1785



Fatima Candlelight Procession

**Sunday, October 13, 2024
7:30PM, Gathering at 7:00PM**
Our Lady of Fatima Church
501 New Market Road, Piscataway, NJ
For further information, call Roberta at 732-245-9124

Study Theology at Georgian Court University!

All programs can be completed remotely. Master of Arts or a Graduate Certificate in Theology, with concentrations in Pastoral Ministry or Mercy Spirituality. Not sure? Take one or two classes on a non-matriculating basis to see if our programs are right for you. Generous financial aid available. New semester begins January 21, 2025. There is still time to apply. Contact department chair Johann M. Vento for more information: jvento@georgian.edu. We look forward to getting to know you and talking about your interest in studying theology.

GIRL SCOUTING IN FAITH

A **GATHERING Day** is normally held each year for Catholic Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts who would like to work on a Catholic scouting program. During that day, scouts accomplish several requirements towards their respective medals.

This year's Girl Scout GATHERING Day will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM at St. Bernard of Clairvaux, 500 Route 22 East, Bridgewater.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided along with scouting activities and fellowship. **The cost for the program is \$15.00** Catholic Girl Scout Medals are offered at each scout level with activities and requirements, just like with regular Girl Scout badge work. Daisy and Brownie programs are completed within the family. Junior, Cadette, and Senior medal programs are completed largely in a group environment with adult advisors.

Contact domgirlscouts@gmail.com for further information on any of the Catholic Girl Scout programs or to request a registration form for the Gathering Day.



Parish Leadership

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| Parish Pastoral Council: Co-Chairs: Frank Rees Frees814@gmail.com Marilyn Wegg mcw-wam@comcast.net | Co-Secretaries: Stephen Busono sbusono@gmail.com Bill Isele t33sm@aol.com Al Drabnis Didi Molano | Sheila Tartaglia Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio Trustees: Pearl Scott Marge Richards | Parish Finance Council: Kester Hector, Chair Finance Council @stmatthias.net Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Joan Pritchard | Cory Panlilio Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio |
|--|---|---|--|---|

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

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

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

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

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



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

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|---------|---------|-----------|
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| July 16 | July 30 | August 13 |

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