



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, 10 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,
7:45 AM - 3:30 PM

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

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

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

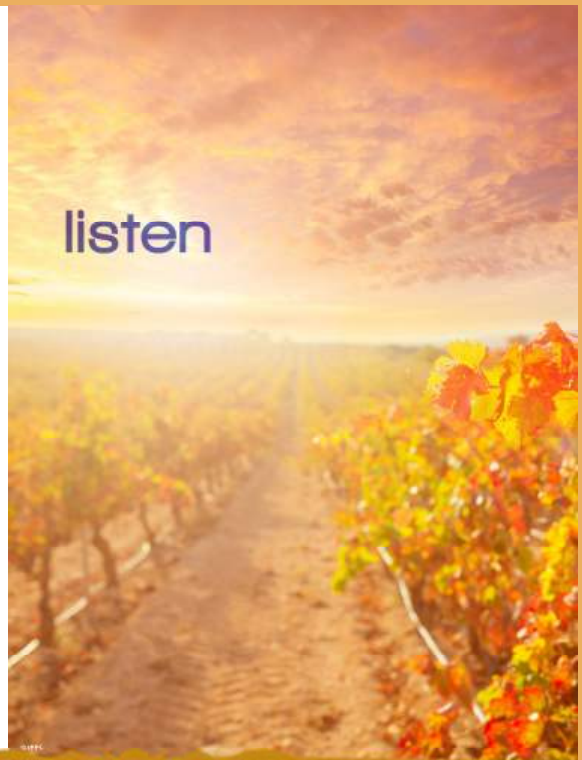
Julio Montero, **Maintenance Supervisor**
Dolores R. Nann, **Pastoral Associate for**
Faith Formation, **dnann**

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

Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, **OSF, Pastoral**
Assoc. for Social Concerns, **msherwood**

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time



listen

Join a
St. Matthias
Small Faith
Group
Today!

See page 9 for
all details.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!



Eucharistic Presentation
October 18th

See page 7 for details

and

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

October 28-29

See page 5 for details



THE ST. MATTHIAS 2024
MASS INTENTIONS BOOK OPENS

OCTOBER 16, 2023

See page 6 for detailed information



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME
QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.
OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL NOT BE THIS MONDAY
BUT WILL BE NEXT MONDAY EVENING,
OCTOBER 16, 2023 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.

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 8, 2023

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass –Interpreter & 1st Reconciliation Prep #1	Church
11:00AM	1st Reconciliation Prep #1	John XXIII & Classrooms
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, Oct 9, 2023 John Leonardi– Italian Apostle Indigenous People’s Day, Italian Heritage Day School & Parish Office are Closed

8:00AM No Mass
6:00PM No Eucharist Adoration

Tuesday, 10, 2023 St. Francis Borgia, Priest & Founder

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

Wednesday, Oct 11, 2023 St. John XXIII, Pope

8:00AM	Communion Service—St. Joseph Novena, In lieu of Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm
7:00PM	SMDP Mtg.	de Porres Rm
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

Thursday, Oct 12, 2023 St. Wilfrid, Bishop

8:00AM	Communion Service in lieu of Mass	Church
3:30PM	Children’s Choir Rehearsal Gr. 3&4	Church
4:00PM	Children’s choir Rehearsal Gr. 5-8	Church
7:30PM	Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal	Church

Friday, Oct 13, 2023 St. Edward, King & Martyr Christmas Tree Sponsorship DEADLINE

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:00AM	SMS Open House	School

Saturday, Oct 14, 2023 St. Callixtus—Pope & Martyr Pulpit Talk by Vocations Ministry @ All Masses

9:00AM	SMS—Corn Hole Event	Parking Lot
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

Sunday, Oct 15, 2023

Fall into Faith Groups Begins

Pulpit Talk by Vocations Ministry @ All Masses

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 8 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

Dear Friends,

We are excited that our celebration of the Hispanic Heritage is this weekend during the 5 pm Mass on Saturday. This Mass is

part of the National Hispanic Heritage Month observed from September 15 to October 15, 2023, celebrating the contributions and importance of Hispanics and Latinos to the United States and those American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. **I’m very happy that our own Fr. Lancelot McGrath is an expert in Spanish language and culture and so he is our presider for this special Mass.**



In the past, I was asked, “Why do we need a Hispanic or bilingual Mass since we have only a tiny minority of Hispanic parishioners?” My answer was that this has nothing to do with numbers but for the whole parish to realize that we are a diverse community and that everyone is welcome. It is a chance for us to appreciate the different ways of being and celebrating together as an ecclesial community of the people of God.

The reality of Hispanic Catholic presence is this: For the past four decades, Hispanic/Latino ministry has flourished in thousands of parishes across the country, including our own diocese of Metuchen. This past summer, the US bishops approved a National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry referring to Hispanics/Latinos as a blessing from God, as a missionary and prophetic presence that revitalizes the church in the United States. The Plan calls for a synodal church that is more welcoming, evangelizing, and missionary at all levels; a church that can build vibrant parish communities with our Hispanic/Latino brothers and sisters, in the context of a culturally diverse society.

The theme for 2023 is “Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America,” highlighting the contributions of Hispanics to the economic, political, and social growth of the United States. **The most important gift, however, that our Hispanic/Latino Catholics bring to the Church in the U.S. is faith and popular piety.** Bishop Arturo Cepeda, chairman of the US Bishops Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, says: *“We celebrate our faith within our Church, in our communities. We celebrate our faith with our families, and we want to continue to celebrate our faith in the larger context of our society. One of the greatest gifts is the sense of community... that sense of being together, of solidarity, of being united with our own planet, celebrating and respecting life, our own Catholic traditions, our great love for Our Lady, and the celebration of our faith through the sacraments.”*

Such values are extremely important for us all. We are happy and proud that our tradition of welcoming and celebrating cultural diversity is one of the significant and meaningful ways to bring about the Kingdom of God more fully here at St. Matthias. **Thank you to our Hispanic brothers and sisters for the faith, hope, and love you bring to prayer, worship, and daily life in all your diversity as Hispanic, Latino, and Latina Catholics. Your reverence and enthusiasm are truly an inspiration to us all.**

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Jon 1:1 — 2:2, 11; Jon 2:3-5, 8; Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 130:1b-4ab, 7-8; Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11; Ps 86:3-6, 9-10; Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Mal 3:13-20b; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 11:5-13

Friday: Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Ps 9:2-3, 6, 16, 8-9; Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: Jl 4:12-21; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Lk 11:27-28

Sunday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14 [1-10]



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Oct 7	5:00PM	Bill Murphy, by The Murphy Family
Sunday, Oct 8	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Mary & Eugene Sullivan, by Mary & Family
	12:00PM	James Weber, by Eileen Weber
Monday, Oct 9	8:00AM	No Mass
Tuesday, Oct 10	8:00AM	Mary Gidaro, by The St. Matthias School Teachers
Wednesday, Oct 11	8:00AM	Robert Zisk, by JoAnn Piagentini
Thursday, Oct 12	8:00AM	The Martinez Family, by Violy Garcia
Friday, Oct 13	8:00AM	Harold Wolkoff, by Tom Fullerton
Saturday, Oct 14	5:00PM	Isabelle Doyle, by Isabelle & John Baker
Sunday, Oct 15	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Stephen Balzer, Sr. by Mary Albani
	12:00PM	Spiritual Intentions for Brian C. King & Family Members, by Mom

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at kcunts@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	Amanda Isele	Gail Miranda	Jeff Sullivan
Tammy Baskaran	Baby Elaine Isele	Robert Pellegrino	Tom Szabo
Tara Capatosto	Bill Johnson	Randolff Pinard	Mary Ann Vlaud
Elizabeth Card	Renée Jolly	Valerie Polci	Eileen Weber
Kyle Davidson	Betsy Kondrat	Kim Price	Nancy Whelan
Lisa DeFeo	Armando D. Liban	Denise Pultro	Anne Zando
Zenon DeGuzman	Mary Lou Littrakis	Doris Regan	
Hattie Evans	John Littrakis	Gabriel Rivera	And for all who are ill,
Claudia Gemgnani	Carol Ann Loftus	Arina Robinson	homebound, elderly, in
Emma Gergely	Joseph Lubrano	Maria Schwenzer	nursing care, or living with
Gerry & Jack Gernert	Aries Magali	Amy Shepp	chronic illness, we pray.
Marie Godet	Al Maglio	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	
Linda Hartong	Ann McElwee	Sr. Bernadine Marie	
Marilyn Horvath	Ivette Michel	Stemnock	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Carolyn Kubik, Mother of Christine Lavelle

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



A lady answered the door to find a man standing there. He had a sad expression on his face. "I'm sorry to disturb you" he said, "I'm collecting money for an unfortunate family in the neighborhood. The husband is out of work, the kids are hungry, and their utilities will soon be cut off. Worse yet, they're going to be kicked out of their apartment if they don't pay the rent by this afternoon." "I'll be happy to help," said the woman. Then she asked, "But who are you?" He replied, "I'm the landlord!" 😊

I was in my room and saw 10 ants running frantically. I felt bad for them, so I built a house for them. This kinda makes me their landlord and that kinda makes them my... *Tenants.* 😊

Landlord: How are the new tenants above you. Renter: They are okay. But it sounds like they are stomping on the floor every night at two o'clock in the morning. Landlord: That is outrageous. I will talk to them at once. Renter: No.

It is really not that big of a deal. I'm usually up then practicing my trumpet anyway. 😊

A man walks into an insect shop and asks for several bags of cockroaches. "What are you using all the cockroaches for?" the cashier asks. "Well... I'm moving" the man said, "And the landlord asked I leave his property the same way I found it." 😊

Recently, a tour guide was leading a group of tourists through a famous, ancient castle in Germany. "This castle was built nearly 800 years ago. Not one stone has been changed, not one wall has been altered, and not one upgrade, superficial or functional, has occurred in all these years." "Wow-" interrupted a woman, "They must have the same landlord I do." 😊

Why was the landlord seeing a psychiatrist? He had an apartment complex. 😊



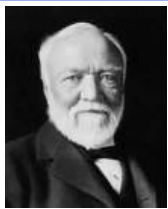
Parenting Tune-Up

The tenants in the gospel today were ungrateful. As a parent, have you experienced ingratitude from your children for what they perceive as unfair? For your choice of a perfunctory birthday card for your son, for imposing spending limits on your teenage daughter and other such ludicrous accusations? Know that your children will realize your goodness later.

Marriage Tune-Up



When was the last time you thanked your working spouse for working? It might sound funny in the beginning, but it is as simple as, "Thanks for getting up every day and working so hard for us so I can stay home/work from home/work part time. I love being able to be here for the kids."



Total Ingratitude and Cold Indifference!

Andrew Carnegie, a multimillionaire, left one million dollars to one of his relatives, who in return cursed Carnegie bitterly because he had left \$365 million to public charities and had cut the relatives off with one million each. Samuel Leibowitz, criminal lawyer and judge, saved 78 men from the electric chair. Not one of them ever bothered to thank him. Many years ago, as the story is told, a devout king was disturbed by the ingratitude of his royal court. He prepared a large banquet for them. When the king and his royal guests were seated, a beggar shuffled into the hall, sat down at the king's table, and gorged himself with food.

Without saying a word, the beggar then left the room. The guests were furious and asked permission to seize the tramp and tear him limb from limb for his ingratitude. The king replied, "That beggar has done only once to an earthly king what each of you does three times each day to God. You sit there at the table and eat until you are satisfied. Then you walk away without recognizing God, or expressing one word of thanks to Him."

The parable in today's Gospel is about the gross ingratitude of God's chosen people who persecuted and killed all the prophets sent to them by God to correct them and finally crucified their long-awaited Messiah.

The Movie: Life of Pi

Life of Pi is a 2012 American survival drama film based on Yann Martel's 2001 novel of the same name. You may have seen it. The storyline revolves around an Indian man, "Pi" Patel, telling a novelist about his life story, and how at 16 he survives a shipwreck in which his family dies, and is adrift in the Pacific Ocean on a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger. The others who came on his boat, an injured zebra and an orangutan were killed by the hyena, which was later killed by the Tiger. When Pi ends the story, he offers another version of his survival story that simply replaces the animals with human characters. An injured person-zebra, his mother-orangutan, a cannibalistic cook-hyena and himself-the tiger. Despite early reluctance, the listeners in the story chose to go with the Animal version rather than the brutal human version, which seems to be the real

Reflect

Life of Pi (continued)

one, but we would never know. However, allegorization is needed in life, in our story telling, especially to explain life's reality. One such story that has two layers is the one that we read today – the parable of the wicked tenants. The Evangelists themselves and the history of interpretation heavily allegorize it.

Welcome to the Vineyard

“When vintage time drew near, [the landowner] sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned . . .” Matthew 21: 33-43

Imagine that just before a soul begins his or her earthly journey, God takes the soul by the hand and points out a certain place on earth. God then explains to the about-to-be-conceived: “This is going to be your piece of the vineyard. It will be yours to make of it whatever you can. All I ask is that you work it as best you can and get the most out of the soil and the shoots I give you. If you produce grapes that become the choice wine of reconciliation and justice, great; if you only have enough water and nutrients to produce a few grapes that make a small amount of the sherry of humility and kindness, good. If you only have enough time to plant a few seeds or start a few vines that others can bring to a full harvest, you'll have done well.”

However, God cautions: “Just don't make the mistake that too many of my tenants make. They get too caught up in the number of grapes that they can coax from the vines. My vineyard is about harvesting good grapes, not amassing profits. “Remember, too, that you are responsible for the part of the vineyard I give you. Don't exhaust the grapes you harvest for yourself alone and then leave nothing behind but a dried, hollow tangle of dead vines for the next grower. I will demand a price for what you produce — and what you squander. “Keep in mind,” God the vineyard owner continues, “that everyone has his or her own piece of the vineyard. But there are no dividing lines, no fences, no property markers. Your part of the vineyard is joined to your neighbor's — so you can do neither good nor evil in your vineyard without affecting the folks next to you and the vines around you.”

Finally, God says: “One more thing. And I don't mean to harp on this, but it **is** my vineyard. Not yours. I'm giving you a piece of it because that's what being God is all about. An occasional thank you would be nice. However, the moment you think this vineyard is yours or that you deserve more and better, your vineyard will become a very unhappy and unproductive place. “So, go to it.” Then God breathes that soul into a human embryo, and another adventure begins. *[Inspired and adapted from The Dialogue of St. Catherine of Siena.]*

Today's parable of the wicked tenants is played out in our own time and place whenever an unjust business practice, a socially irresponsible decision or a morally indefensible act is called out. Too often we view this “vineyard” God has given us as ours alone, and we will manipulate it, abuse it, and exhaust it to satisfy our own needs and pleasure, and like the tenants in the today's parable, we find some way to cut down whoever challenges us or calls us accountable. Christ the “vineyard owner's son” comes with a new vision for the vineyard we only “lease” from his Father: a vision of love rather than desire, of peace rather than hostility, of forgiveness rather than vengeance.

Why do people ignore warnings!

Recently the *New York Times Magazine* showed a series of photographs of a rock formation in Yosemite National Park near Bridal Veil Falls. A prominent sign in yellow plastic was attached to the rocks, which clearly said; "Danger. Climbing or scrambling on rocks and cliffs is extremely dangerous. They are slippery when dry or wet. Many injuries and even fatalities have occurred." One picture showed a woman walking on the rocks in a tight dress and high heels. Another showed a couple walking on the rocks. The man was carrying his dog apparently because he thought it was too slippery for the dog. Another showed a man carrying a month-old baby in his arms while walking on the rocks. ("Slippery Slope in Yosemite" *New York Times Magazine*, September 9, 1994, p. 14.)

What causes us to ignore clear warnings? Why do folks rip the plastic cover off a pack of cigarettes when all of us know the surgeon general's warning by heart? Why do people remove the safety shield from power saws? Why do people ignore their doctor's warnings about being overweight and under exercised? Why do entire civilizations ignore warnings about pollution or the revolutionary pressures that economic and political injustice creates? Today's Gospel tells us how the Jewish religious leadership ignored the even the final warning given by Jesus after Palm Sunday.



Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

The Eucharistic Miracles Display is a museum-like exhibition featuring the Eucharistic Miracles as chronicled by Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006). Blessed Carlo was a teenager from Italy who developed a website dedicated to the documented and scientifically scrutinized occasions when the Holy Eucharist changed in its physical appearance, reminding us that the bread and wine of the Mass truly become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. **This Exhibit will be set up in the cafeteria here at St. Matthias on the weekend of this month: October 28-29. Everyone is invited to visit this unique exhibition after every Mass.**

JESUS CALLS US TO GOOD STEWARDSHIP

William White once told of visiting his 98-year-old mother-in-law in a nursing home. He remembers her quietly saying, "Think of the lilies and how they grow." Long ago this frail, blind woman made the discovery that all of life is a blessing from God. She spent much of her time repeating Scripture verses that she had learned throughout her life. The Scriptures gave her both strength and comfort during many lonely hours. She was an active woman right up until she entered the nursing home, walking a mile a day, though her eyesight was gradually worsening. She loved people and was always helping them. Even in the nursing home she used a walker to spread her joyful faith. "Facing each day is not easy for her," White reflected, "but she keeps her spirits up." How? She felt that even at ninety-eight she had a mission. There in the nursing home she was able to touch the lives of other residents as well as some employees.

In fact some former employees who changed jobs still returned to the nursing home to spend time with this remarkable woman. William White was inspired when his mother-in-law told him how thankful she was to have memorized so many Scriptures before she lost her eyesight. Those Scriptures filled her heart with the Lord.

This dear 98-year-old lady did not have much left in this world but she had the only thing we ever really own, her Faith in God. Everything else that we have is on loan.

Someday it will be passed on to someone else. Don't you see? No matter how rich we are, if we are not rich toward God, we don't have anything! The vineyard belongs to Him. Happiness is found in recognizing our place as His tenants His stewards. But there is one thing more to be said. Jesus Calls Us to Good Stewardship.

ST. MATTHIAS 2024 MASS INTENTIONS GUIDELINES MASS BOOK OPENS OCTOBER 16, 2023



Mass Intentions

It is an ancient and noble practice to pray for the living and the dead during Mass.

The greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass, since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption made present to us. Therefore, so many of us seek to book a Mass intention for our loved ones, living or deceased.

A Mass intention may be requested for: a deceased loved one; a living person who is sick or suffering; a living person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special moment in their life; in thanksgiving to God (including the Lord Jesus or the Holy Spirit); in thanksgiving for a favor received through the intercession of a Blessed or a Saint; or for a prayer intention (so long as the intention does not contradict Church teaching).

In our parish, there are many requests for scheduling Mass intentions. Our 2024 Book of Mass Intentions will be opened on **Monday, October 16, 2023, 8:30AM** in the Parish Office. To accommodate our parishioners, we will continue the limit of four (4) Masses – two (2) weekday Masses and a maximum of two (2) Weekend Masses. You can return on or after November 15 for additional Mass requests. Here are the details of the different kinds of Mass intentions:

Announced Weekday Mass Intentions: The suggested stipend for weekday Mass remains the same: \$10.00. The intention will be printed in the bulletin and announced

during Mass. Please be sure to indicate if the person for whom the Mass requested is living (L) or deceased (D).

Announced Weekend Mass Intentions: The suggested stipend for Weekend Mass is \$15.00. The intention will be printed in the bulletin and announced at Mass. Please be sure to indicate if the person for whom the Mass requested is living (L) or deceased (D).

Multiple Intentions: With increasing requests for additional Mass intentions during unforeseen special occasions such as death, month's mind, etc., it is a pastoral practice to better accommodate such needs of our parishioners by allowing additional intentions with the existing intention for the Mass. In such cases, we will be accepting only two (2) additional intentions, which will be announced in the Universal Prayers (Prayers of the Faithful) but not in the bulletin. Please know that the stipend for these additional intentions (\$10 for weekdays and \$15 for Weekends) will be sent to the Mission Office of our Diocese.

Unannounced Mass Intentions: There will be no limit on unannounced Mass requests. These Masses are available at any time and are sent either to the Office of Missions of the Diocese of Metuchen or to missionary priests. The suggested stipend remains the same: \$10.00.

Mass for the People (Missa Pro Populo): One Sunday Mass per weekend is offered for the intention of the living and deceased parishioners of St. Matthias.

Pray



Public Square Rosary Crusade

America is at a historic crossroad. God is more offended than ever as people ignore Our Lady's maternal request to "stop offending God." As a result, America is suffering a societal collapse. It is urgent that we heed Our Lady's request and stop sinning if we hope to enjoy God's blessings and to avert His wrath. He will hear us, if we pray through the intercession of His Blessed Mother. That is why we're doing the Public Square Rosary Crusade.

In The Secret of the Rosary, Saint Louis de Montfort said, "Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down His mercy, and Holy Mother Church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering."

Join us for the Public Square Rosary Crusade here at St. Matthias.

When? Saturday, October 14, at 4:30 pm

Where? In the open field near the side parking lot next to our church. Organized by: our St. Matthias Rosarians.



All Soul's Mass - Thursday November 2, 2023

Our annual All Souls Mass will take place on Thursday, November 2, at the 5:00 pm Liturgy. The names of all who have been buried from St. Matthias this past year will be spoken aloud and prayed for. Families of the deceased, as well as all parishioners, are invited to attend this very special liturgy, as we remember our dear departed ones.

All Health and Mental Health Care Professionals

Save The Date

You are invited to the BLESSING of the HEALING HANDS in celebration of the feast of St. Luke, author of the gospel and "Beloved Physician"



EUCCHARISTIC PRESENTATION SERIES

One of the goals of the Eucharistic Revival is to have a 'robust formation' to understand the meaning of the Holy Eucharist. For this purpose, our Eucharistic Revival Committee is organizing a series of presentations on the Holy Eucharist. The first of these is scheduled for **October 18th, Wednesday 7 p.m.**

Please save the date. More information will be coming soon.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

12PM MASS

ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873

Sponsored by the Vocation Ministry of the Parish of St. Matthias

"Where the needs of the world and your talents cross, there lies your vocation"

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT VIRTUAL GROUP MEETS ON 10/11 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, October 11th, from 2:00 pm-3:00 pm on Zoom**. Registration is required.

To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group. For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.

A Thank You



A Sincere Thank you from Sr. Mary Vertucci

Sr. Mary Vertucci returned to Tanzania but is conveying her gratitude to Fr. Abraham, Fran Johnson and the women from the Altar Rosary Society, and ALL parishioners for receiving her so graciously, and being so generous on September 3. Our parishioners donated a total of **\$5,116** to the Emusoi Center. In her words, "It was a joy to be with you all. I do count on your prayers and continuing generosity. You all keep us going. May God bless you All!"

Connect

SAINT MATTHIAS SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER

Responsibilities include processing invoices, purchasing, recording payments, and performing clerical duties. Previous experience using the FACTS Tuition Mgt. system is a plus.

Please send your resume to: mpburke-grospin@stmattias.net.



SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

PREK3 - 8TH GRADE

Please send your resume to: mlynch@stmattias.net

<https://www.stmatthias.info/>

732-828-1400

CRAFT FAIR DONATIONS

We are in need of new items such as toys, gifts, gift cards and cash donations to help us fill baskets for the basket raffle fundraiser at the SMS Craft Fair on Sunday, December 3rd, 2023. Please send donations to the office by Monday, November 27th.

The poster has a decorative border with green leaves and red berries. The text is in a mix of red and green fonts.

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL
St. Matthias Holiday Craft Fair
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2023
9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL CAFETERIA
170 JFK BLVD.
SOMERSET, NJ
TOYS, CANDLES, JEWELRY, BAGS, DECORATIONS

The poster features a festive background with a small Christmas tree, red ornaments, and a gift box with a red bow. The text is in a mix of red and black fonts.

Learn



HISPANICS AND THEIR CATHOLIC FAITH

(continued)

He acknowledged that defining what Hispanics represent for the church is difficult.

"We are a cultural mosaic. To be Hispanic is to be part of that mosaic, of that cultural diversity that exists even within the Hispanic community itself," he said. "We are white, Black, Asian, Indigenous, so we cannot be defined as a race. We are more than anything else; we are a culture, a way of living in this world immersed in a richness." Hispanic Catholics organize multitudinous processions, celebrate crowded masses full of emotion -- in which they usually incorporate large images on platforms, dynamic music, colorful flags and typical costumes -- and joyful gatherings where they taste and share dishes with the varied Latin American seasoning.

"Popular religiosity is a richness; it is the treasure of God's people. Our Hispanic people are rich in traditions, in popular faith. Their faith is incarnated, rooted in reality and in the very life of the people. It is the faith that has become part of daily life," the bishop said. In most Hispanic homes, one first sees an image of the Virgin Mary at the entrance and then religious images on the walls. It is not a rational or theological faith, he says, but a faith that is lived, that is present in daily life. "It is what we are," he said. Hispanics feel the need to express their faith in different ways: in processions, in the celebrations of patron saint festivals, in carrying a rosary, a scapular or an image of the Virgin. These are signs of popular religiosity that Hispanics feel they have to manifest. "You can't hide it because it's who we are," he said.

Connect



“Our Christmas Tree Campaign is Under Way”

It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year! Our annual Christmas Tree “Spread the Light” campaign is in full swing! We would like to thank all of the parishioners and friends of the parish who have already arranged for their trees. If you have not signed up to sponsor a tree, please consider doing this soon. The cutoff date to sponsor is **October 13th**. There are forms in the back of the church and on the website. You can either pay at the parish office or through Parish Giving. 300 trees have been ordered so don't miss your chance to honor a loved one, celebrate your family and or business, and generally “light the night” here at St. Matthias. The Deadline to Order Your Tree is October 13th. Join in this wonderfully moving tradition that helps support our church and brings joy to so many. Flyers are also available in church and on our website.

For more information this campaign and how to order a tree, please visit:

www.stmatthias.net/tree

Join a St. Matthias Small Faith Group Begins October 15



Make **Fall Into Faith 2023** 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/fGjZMhRL6VnQjdXg8>

Facilitators will be contacting group members who have been part of their group. Each group likely will be meeting either on Zoom or in person usually on the same date/time. Groups will begin the week of **October 15th!** **New members, please sign-up by TODAY!** Most groups will be using the same resource.



“SAVE THE DATE”!

The Senior Ministry & St. Martin de Porres Society will be hosting a trip to Lancaster, PA to see:
SIGHT & SOUND

“DANIEL LIVE ON STAGE”

Saturday, April 20, 2024

For more details, visit: www.stmatthias.net/sightandsound

Adults (age 13+) -\$170 and Children (under 13) -\$100. **Deposit required is \$70.00 by Nov. 1**

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

If you are experiencing the recent loss of a loved one, you are invited to a 7-week session, where you will find support, comfort, and healing. The group meets on Wednesdays, Oct 18 & 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15 & Dec. 6. And, Tuesday, Nov. 21. (Due to Thanksgiving on Thursday.) All meetings are from 7:00-8:30 PM at the Parish Office, de Porres Meeting Room. (Please park around the back of the office to enter de Porres room door).

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023 Contact: Sr. Marie Therese, msherwood@stmatthias.net

LAZARUS MINISTRY MEETING



All Lazarus Ministers are invited to meet for prayer, sharing, and updating on our Ministry:

Date: Thursday, October 12th

Time: 10:00 - 11:30 am

Place: Parish Office de Porres Room (please park around the back of the office to enter the de Porres Room door).

The main focus of the Lazarus Ministry is to be a supportive presence to grieving families at funeral Masses and wakes. For more information about this ministry please contact: Sr. Marie Therese -- msherwood@stmatthias.net

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 10 - October 1, 2023	\$10,843.00	\$8,759.25	\$19,602.25	\$20,588.35
Week 11 - October 8, 2023			\$0.00	\$34,356.78
Week 12 - October 15, 2023			\$0.00	\$22,628.25
Week 13 - October 22, 2023			\$0.00	\$25,162.75
Week 13 - October 29, 2023			\$0.00	\$18,454.95
			Month-to-date Total	October Total Last
			\$19,602.25	\$121,191.08
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Oc-
			\$1,720,789.64	\$1,773,894.31

Stewardship Reflection October 8, 2023 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the corner stone...” - Matthew 21:42

Jesus was rejected by the religious and political leaders of his day, as well as ordinary citizens, but he was still obedient to God, the Father. Similarly, living a stewardship lifestyle may cause you to be “rejected” by others, but we, too are called to be obedient. Saying grace before a meal in a restaurant may attract some strange looks from some. But to others it is a sign that God is alive and well!

Reflexiónese 8 de octubre 2023 Domingo 27º del Tiempo Ordinario

“La piedra que los constructores rechazaron se ha convertido en la piedra angular...” - Mateo 21:42

Jesús fue rechazado por los líderes políticos y religiosos de su época, así como también por ciudadanos ordinarios, pero el siguió obedeciendo a Dios Padre. De la misma manera, tener un estilo de vida de corresponsabilidad puede hacer que usted sea “rechazado” por los demás. Dar gracias antes del inicio de una comida en un restaurant puede atraer miradas extrañas de algunas personas, ;pero para otras es una señal de que Dios está vivo y bien!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The parish office is in need of volunteers Monday - Friday mornings. If you have some free time, please contact Mary Pat in the parish office, (732) 828 -1400. Thank you for all you do for St. Matthias.

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 Gwen Orlovski	Audrey Francis Joan Pritchard Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
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About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

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