



**St. Matthias Parish Office**

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

**Mass Schedule (in person):**

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

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

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info) 732-828-1402  
**School Office Hours**, Monday-Thursday 9AM-1PM, and Friday by appointment.

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**

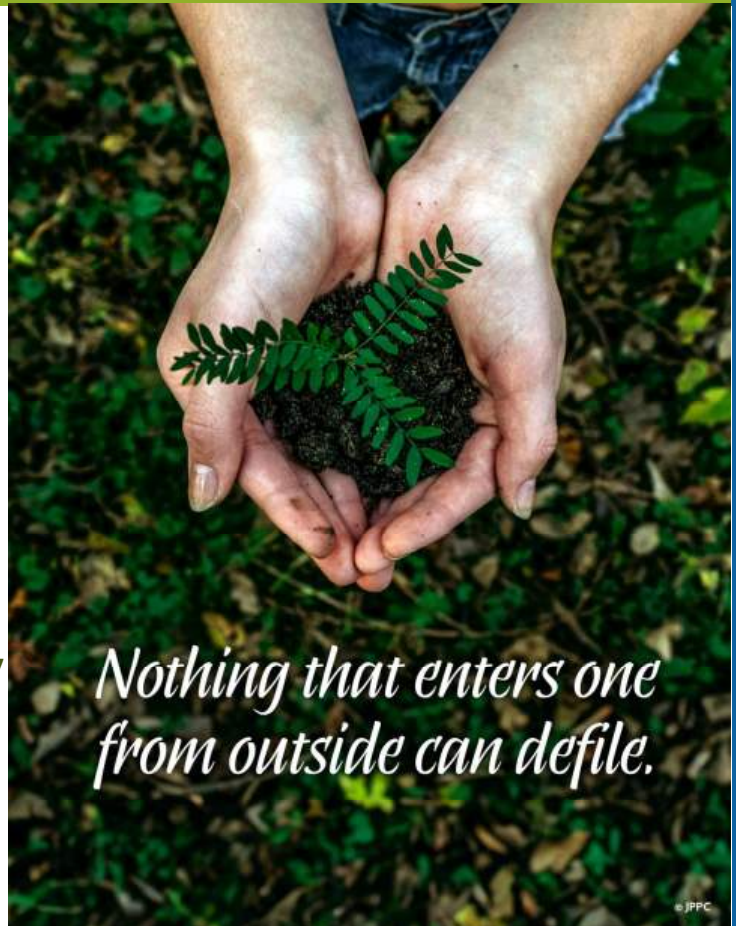
Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Coordinator, **lguillen**  
Amy Hanna, Accountant/Databases, **ahanna**  
Mike Lanyi, Sacristan  
Sue Lenczewski, Youth Coordinator, **SMYLE**  
Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor  
Debra Schurko, Director of Religious Education,  
**dschurko**

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, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**  
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Parish office and Church will be closed on Monday 9/2.



**Next Sunday's 2nd collection is for the Annual Peter's Pence Collection**



**Welcome Back To Our Teachers and Students**



**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD. OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 9, 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](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

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

**Sunday, Sept 1, 2024**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Society Mtg.	Off site
12:00PM	Mass	Church

**Monday, Sep 2, 2024**

**September Martyrs**

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

**Tuesday, Sep 3, 2024**

**St. Gregory the Great,  
 Pope & Doctor**

8:00AM Mass Church

**Wednesday, Sep 4, 2024**

**St. Rose of Viterbo**

8:00AM Mass St. Joseph Novena Church  
 9:30AM Holy Spirit Prayer Grp. de Porres Rm

**Thursday, Sep 5, 2024**

**St. Teresa of Calcutta,  
 Virgin & Foundress**

8:00AM Mass Church

**Friday, Sep 6, 2024**

**St. Eleutherus, Abbot**

8:00AM Mass / First Friday Holy Hour Church

**Saturday, Sep 7, 2024**

**St. Regina, Virgin & Martyr**

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

**Sunday, Sep 8, 2024**

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](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by 9 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.



Dear Friends,

I hear so many say, “I can’t believe summer is over!” When we keep ourselves very busy, I think it is only natural that we don’t realize the passing of time. So here we are stepping into September. That means our school and campus will be more alive as we happily welcome back our students, parents, teachers and administrators for the new school year. The summer vacation was the ideal time to do all the maintenance work for the school building - cleaning, waxing, painting etc. The classrooms, bathrooms, hallways and cafeteria - in fact the whole school building looks very inviting – thanks to the hard work of Julio Montero and team, and Mary Pat Burke-Grosplin, our Business Administrator, who oversaw it.

Parents, students and teachers must have been going through what experts call “back to school stressors” – making them feel nervous, worried, anxious about changing the easy summer routine and adjust to the schedule of going back to school. But, it is important for us to realize that returning to St. Matthias School should be producing, not stress and anxiety, but hope and comfort. What makes us different from public schools, charter schools, and other private schools is that we teach the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith. We provide for the spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional needs of our students and so parents are at ease to leave their children with us. Thank you parents for making sacrifices to send your children to St. Matthias. Thank you to Mrs. Mary Lynch, our Principal, and our staff and faculty for caring for the holistic formation of each and every student entrusted to our care. It was so edifying for me to see teachers spending many days to prepare their classrooms, making them as attractive and welcoming as possible. Our students will certainly feel very welcomed and loved.

Keeping our St. Matthias School open, welcoming and going is the happy fruit of the united effort of all of us in this Catholic Community of St. Matthias. Thanks in a special way to all our parishioners and Tuition Angels who contribute so generously to promote Catholic education which is an integral part of the mission of our parish.

All this flurry of activity – be it for back to school, back to regular work after vacation, or continuing work with no vacation – is more meaningful when we realize that this is the Labor Day weekend and that it provides us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the deeper meaning of our work. The Catholic Church proclaims the dignity, meaning and redemptive value of all human work which was transformed by Christ the carpenter-worker.

Hence in the midst of resting and celebrating this Labor Day weekend, let us take a few minutes to reflect on the deeper meaning of our labor, and how our faith shapes our understanding of the value of our jobs: “How is my job creating good in the little world I find myself in? In my family? In my work place? In my friendship circle? In my own heart?”

Happy Labor Day!

Your brother in Christ,  
 Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday** 1 Cor 2:1-5 Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102 Lk 4:16-30

**Tuesday** 1 Cor 2:10b-16 Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13AB, 13CD-14 Lk 4:31-37

**Wednesday** 1 Cor 3:1-9 Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21 Lk 4:38-44

**Thursday** 1 Cor 3:18-23 Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Lk 5:1-11

**Friday** 1 Cor 4:1-5 Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40 Lk 5:33-39

**Saturday** 1 Cor 4:6b-15 Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21 Lk 6:1-5

**Sunday** Is 35:4-7a Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 Jas 2:1-5 Mk 7:31-37

## Mass Intentions for the Week

		Intention of Parishioners
<b>Saturday, August 31</b>	5:00pM	Birthday Blessings for Austin J. Ramos, by Grandma
<b>Sunday, September 1</b>	8:00AM	Health & Blessings for Santina C. Spinella, by The Family
	10:00AM	Miriam Weeks Delcina & Doris Yearwood, by Judith James
	12:00PM	Leonida Torres, by The Family
<b>Monday, September 2</b>	8:00AM	No Mass
<b>Tuesday, September 3</b>	8:00AM	Wedding Anniversary Blessings for Joseph & Analize Ramos, by Mom
<b>Wednesday, September 4</b>	8:00AM	Craig Slyman, by Mom & Family
<b>Thursday, September 5</b>	8:00AM	John Dillard, by Mary, Vinnie, & Ethel
<b>Friday, September 6</b>	8:00AM	Mary Mulcahy, by The Family
<b>Saturday, September 7</b>	5:00pM	Nancy Collins, by Marty
<b>Sunday, September 8</b>	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Maurice (Max) Regan - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary, by Family
	12:00PM	Andrew Mutchler, by Helen Mutchler

## 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](mailto: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	Heinley Gaspard	Mary Lou Litrakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Anita Vance
Brandon Barbarite	Claudia Gemgnani	John Litrakis	Randolff Pinard	Leticia Veridiano
Ghislaine Baron	Emma Gergely	Denis Loboda	Valerie Polci	Eileen Weber
Helen Bell	Claude Godet	Aries Magali	Kim Price	Nancy Whelan
Samantha Bellouny	Marie Godet	Kenneth & Kelly	Frank Rispoli	Michael Zambri
Mary Bostrom	Shelly Greene	Magat	Anna Ritchik	Ginette Zamor
Tara Capatosto	Linda Hartong	Susan, King & Tosh	Gabriel Rivera	Anne Zando
Elizabeth Card	Jeff Hentz	Manansala	Bob Rotz	
Lisa DeFeo	Marilyn Horvath	Alexandra Marquez	Marisa Ruppel	<b>And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.</b>
Zenon DeGuzman	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Christine Matthews	Maria Schwenzer	
Vivian Dong	Jean Alix Jolly	Ann McElwee	Amy Shepp	
Sanora Doyen	Renée Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	
Andrea Dubuisson	Donna Kahora	Gail Miranda	Timothy Siclari	
Hattie Evans	Betsy Kondrat	Menchie Molano-	Catherine Steele	
Margaret Ann Cichon	Kathy Langenbacher	Sotelo	Sr. Bernadine Marie	
Ford	Rose Larangeira	Sarah Braun Morini	Stemnock	
Sharon Gadomski	Armando D. Liban	Robert Pellegrino	Richard Sury	

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Danny Ongchango, Marlene Castillo-Ray, Lillian Mary McKeon



## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



The little boy wasn't getting good marks in school. One day he made the teacher quite surprised. He tapped her on the shoulder and said ..."I don't want to scare you, but my daddy says if I don't get better grades, somebody is going to get a spanking." 😊

Teacher: You missed school yesterday, didn't you?

Student: Not very much. 😊

Teacher: Billy, your essay on "My Dog" is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy it?

Billy: No, Mrs. White. It's the same dog! 😊

While shopping for a bathroom scale, I found one that tracks not only weight but also body fat, bone mass, and water percentage. I nixed that one in favor of a low-tech model. As I told the salesperson, "I don't need to be depressed four ways; one is quite enough." 😊

A guy gets pulled over by a cop. The cop asks, "You're speeding! Didn't you see the speed limit sign?" The man replied, "Yeah I saw the speed limit sign, but I didn't see you." 😊

Q: Why should you never date tennis players?

A: Love means nothing to them. 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

"Did you wash your hands before coming to dinner?" is a common parental question. But just as important is coming to dinner with a clean heart. Sure, squabbling will happen, but if you as a parent can stay calm and centered, the odds are you can more effectively deflect sibling squabbles or food complaints.

### Marriage Tune-Up

What does hypocrisy mean in marriage? Have you said something to your spouse and felt it was not from the heart? Have you done certain things for your spouse without meaning it in your heart? That is hypocrisy. If it does not help you and your marriage, why not stop that game soon?



## A BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD THAN YOU THINK ...

*"... the things that come out from within are what defile." Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

She was driving home late one rainy evening; her kids were asleep in the back seat. When she exited the highway and was approaching her street, she saw a car stalled on the side of the road. The hood was up, the car's flashers were on and a man was bent over the engine. A few feet away, a young woman held an infant in her arms and a toddler clung to her legs, shivering. She pulled over and asked if she could help or call someone.

The man looked to his wife, whose eyes were wide with fear, and then focused his attention back on the car. "No, thank you," he said tersely. "My brother will be here soon." "Well, you can at least use a little more light," she said as she opened her trunk and offered a flashlight to the man. She turned to his wife and said: "Please, sit in the car. I've got the heat on. You'll be more comfortable there." After some gentle coaxing, the woman agreed. The woman seemed to be almost afraid of her. To try to put the woman at ease, she pointed out her house that was just down the road. After a while, the brother arrived and helped the husband get the engine running again. The wife looked at her for the first time and quietly thanked her.

A few days later there was a knock on her door. It was the young mother standing on the porch holding a bouquet of flowers and a tray of cookies. "To thank you for your help the other night," the woman said. She invited the woman in and made coffee. "I wanted to apologize to you for the other night," the woman began. "You were kind to stop and help and we treated you as if you were a criminal. We're new to the area, and everyone had warned us that this neighborhood was in the 'bad part of town.' When you came along, we didn't know if we could trust you. But your kindness made us feel safe for the first time in our new home."

**The good within one woman's heart changes the less-than-good "outside" of her. Her offer of help transforms a family's fear of their new environs in a "bad part of town" to a place of welcome. The kind of human being we are begins in the values of the heart, the place where God dwells within - but the evil we are capable of, the hurt we inflict on others, the degrading of the world that God created also begins "within," when God is displaced by selfishness, fear, anger, hatred. May God instill in us his spirit of compassion and justice, enabling us to transform the "bad parts" of the world outside of us into the "good" of God's Kingdom that begins within each of us.**



## MOTHER TERESA vs PRINCESS DIANA

Princess Diana captured the imagination of the world. When she married in 1981 (700 million watched it in TV), and when she met with a tragic death on August 31, 1997 her funeral was watched by 2.5 billion people on TV. So, it would not be surprising if, on August 31, 2018 media made mention of the anniversary of her passing. It is only fitting if the media will speak about the many good things that she did, in particular the many charitable causes she tirelessly worked for. Will the media also recall that someone else who died twenty-one years ago, a little nun in Calcutta known to the world as Mother Teresa? It has been said that Mother Teresa chose the wrong week to die, overshadowed by the death of the young princess. But maybe that's the way it should be. Nothing could better reflect how warped the values of the world are. Mother Teresa wasn't accompanied by a billionaire playboy when she passed from this life to the celestial kingdom. She wasn't being driven in a high-speed luxury car. She lived and died serving the least and the lowest. She lived and died glorifying God and serving her neighbor. There's nothing wrong with little girls aspiring to grow up to be princesses. How much better, though, if all of us aspired to be more like Mother Teresa! There's nothing wrong with pomp and circumstance. There's even nothing wrong with ceremonies linked to the washing of hands, even though doctors say a little dirt is good for you, unless the ceremony of washing hands causes you to look down on those who don't observe such ceremonies, or unless you have clean hands but an impure heart.

## MOVE FROM LIPS TO HEART!

In 1974, the top college basketball player in the country was a young man by the name of Bill Walton. At six foot eleven, he dominated college basketball. He took his team, UCLA, to their third consecutive NCAA championship, and in his senior year went on to the NBA. Bill had some adjustments to make in the NBA, and he didn't make them very well. Then abruptly he left the game. He said his heart was no longer in his playing. After some time went by, Bill Walton came back. This time his heart was in his game, and he played like it. He led the Portland Trailblazers to their first NBA championship. Then he moved on to the Boston Celtics. Now he's a television basketball announcer. It makes all the difference in the world if your heart is in what you're doing! A lot of us are trying to live our lives with our hearts in nothing or, we should say, with nothing in our hearts. We have Christ on our lips, but He's never made that journey further down. That's why we are bored. How do we move Christ from our lips to our hearts? That is the question which today's Gospel asks us.

## WE ARE BEING WATCHED!

In many cities, we will get a ticket for speeding by mail, because video cameras on the road side or at traffic lights snap our picture as we speed by and record our speed while the camera focuses on our license plate. Video cameras are popping up everywhere, like virtual watching eyes. School districts are installing cameras in school buses to document for unbelieving parents how their children behave. YMCAs have mounted security cameras everywhere. Banks and businesses monitor the movements of suspected criminals and shop-lifters. With Webcams positioned strategically throughout the child-care center, parents can log on to the Internet to see what's happening with their babies. Buzzing along benignly through clear American skies, the Recon Spy Plane has a hidden, remote-controlled camera that can be activated from up to 1,000 feet away. All these are meant to force citizens to behave well.

***But we conveniently forget the truth that God has an all-seeing "Holycam" perched inside our souls enabling Him to see what is in our hearts and minds. We may get away with appearance-based virtual morality in society, fooling civil authorities, friends, spouse or children. But Jesus gives us a strong warning in today's Gospel: "Nothing that enters from outside can defile a person; but the things that come out from within are what defile" (Mark 7:15). Jesus is cautioning us not to be like some Pharisees who passed themselves off as pious, always performing the correct rites and keeping tradition-based observances, but whose inner lives were polluted with the stench of the graveyard.***

## "Oh yes, I believe in God, but I'm not nuts about Him!"

A young coed being interviewed on television about her religious beliefs said, "Oh yes, I believe in God, but I'm not nuts about Him." According to the Gallup Poll that is a good description of how most Americans feel about God. Ninety-four percent of us believe in God. When it comes to translating that belief into action, however, most of us are clearly not nuts about Him. We have something in common with the Pharisees. Jesus once summed up the Pharisees' chief problem like this: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." There is a group kin to the traditionalists that we might call Christian Secularists. This group is made up of that host of nominally committed people who fill the rolls of most churches. They bring their children to Sunday School. They use the Church to marry and bury. They visit us at Christmas and at Easter. They are not atheists or agnostics. They, like that young coed, believe in God, but they're not nuts about him. Today's Gospel is Christ's view about such followers.

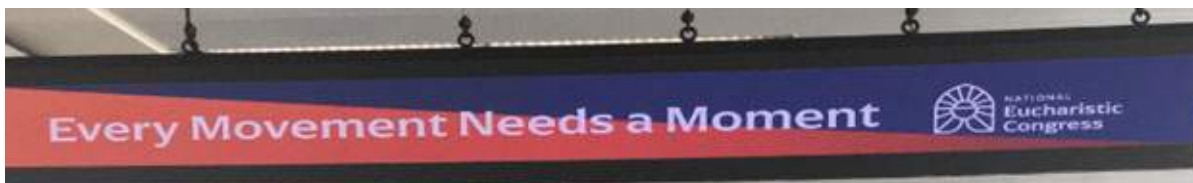
## THE FALL

In Albert Camus' novel *The Fall*, the central figure is a nameless lawyer who tells his story to a stranger he meets in a Dutch bar. The anonymous lawyer relates how he had always prided himself on being a selfless servant of humanity, a man of noble virtue and generosity. But then one dark rainy midnight, something happened to shatter his self-righteous image. As he was walking home over a bridge, he passed by a slim young woman leaning over the rail and staring into the river. Stirred by the sight of her, he hesitated a moment, and then walked on. After crossing the bridge he heard a body striking the water, a cry repeated several times, and then the midnight silence again. He wanted to do something to save her, but stood there motionless for a while and then went home. The nameless lawyer in Camus' story reminds us in some ways of the Pharisees in today's Gospel. The Pharisees were experts in the law and prided themselves on their scrupulous observance of it. And yet Jesus castigated them for their hypocrisy by quoting the prophet Isaiah: "This people pay me lip service but their heart is far from me" (Albert Cylwicki, *His Word Resounds*). **We need to keep the spirit of the Church's laws and practices. For example our Sunday obligation is intended to allow us to worship God in the parish community, to offer our lives to God, to ask His pardon for our sins, to thank God for His blessings, to present our needs before Him and to receive Divine Life and strength from Him in receiving Holy Communion. Our daily family prayers are meant to thank God for His blessings, to present the family's needs before God, to ask pardon for all our sins, and to maintain the spirit of unity and love in the family.**



### Reflections on the National Eucharistic Congress: Emile Capuno

*Today we continue with Emile Capuno's 2nd instalment on her experience in Indianapolis:*



This banner greeted me at Indiana international airport!

The Eucharistic Revival was a response by the U.S Bishops to polls and surveys indicating that there has been a steady decline in Sunday Mass attendance, and the loss of belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The 10th National Eucharistic Congress has been in the works for nearly three years and is part of a larger three-year Eucharistic Revival launched by the U.S. bishops on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi in 2022. The last time there was a National Eucharistic Congress here in the United States was in 1941, 83 years ago!

The NEC featured an Exhibit Hall where every Catholic apostolate, ministry, movement, religious community, entrepreneur, and product seemed to be represented. Many Catholic cosmetics companies, financial advisors, health-care ministries and schools celebrated their unique place in the Church.

Every morning, we gather at Lucas Oil Stadium to pray the Family Rosary Across America live on Relevant Radio, then various expressions of the Church's liturgy were beautifully offered. There was Mass in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese, an Eastern Rite liturgy: Syro-Malabar Qurbana, a Byzantine Divine Liturgy, a Byzantine Hierarchical Vigil Divine Liturgy, a Mass for Youth, and a Mass According to the 1962 Missal. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, papal envoy to the NEC, celebrated Mass for the Filipino community at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral on Thursday, while Bishop James Checchio celebrated Mass for the NEC pilgrims from the Diocese of Metuchen on Friday.

After Mass, we (thousands of bishops, priests, seminarians, women religious with different colored habits, families with young children, some even have up to 8 kids) attended Impact sessions, afternoon Breakout sessions, and evening Revival sessions. These sessions included popular and inspiring Catholic speakers from all over the country. Each evening concluded with Eucharistic Adoration, with all forms of absolutely beautiful music, from Gregorian chant to contemporary. The Eucharistic procession, on Saturday afternoon, through downtown Indianapolis was the most public display of love and devotion to the Eucharist as pilgrims dropped to their knees as the Eucharistic Lord passed by. Wow! I am so thankful and proud of my faith!!

*(to be continued...)*

## Pray



### RCIA

If you came for the Easter Vigil, you saw some of our adult parishioners receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. They had undertaken a process known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for about 10 months. Our next process will begin in September. There are weekly gatherings where people come together to share, grow, and understand the Catholic faith. These are not classes but a faith-sharing group. If you know anyone who has not received these Sacraments of Initiation, kindly invite him/her to try this process. Please contact Parish Office at: 732-828-1400.

## Connect

Catholic Community of St. Matthias

RACIAL  
JUSTICE  
INITIATIVE



### Catholic Social Teaching in the Public Square ELECTION 2024 REFLECTION SERIES

**SAVE THE DATES**

Thursday, September 19  
Thursday, September 26

Thursday, October 3  
Thursday, October 10

**All sessions are from 7 - 8:30 pm in the John XXIII room at St. Matthias.**



As the Racial Justice Initiative here at St. Matthias, we feel it necessary to open a dialogue on racial justice issues as they pertain to politics in America, with a focus on our responsibilities as dictated by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. This dialogue will take place over four weekly sessions, each one-and-one-half hour long, during which we will pray, discuss CST principles, watch informative videos on pertinent topics, reflect, and discuss. The topics will be broken out as per the USCCB Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: **HUMAN DIGNITY, THE COMMON GOOD, SUBSIDIARITY, SOLIDARITY.**

**\*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/](http://www.stmatthias.net/election2024/)**



### ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON ZOOM, SEPTEMBER 11TH 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, September 11th, 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](http://alz.org/NJ).

### BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

The Bereavement ministry of St. Matthias will be offering a 7 week session beginning on **Wednesday, October 2** to help anyone with support navigating the difficult time following the loss of a loved one. Many of us have, at one time or another, experienced the difficult transition to life after a person dear to us has died. The road ahead often feels unsafe and almost unmanageable. This program is designed to help participants navigate this uncertainty in a safe, non judgmental environment with others who share many of the same feelings. The program uses a guide to help foster discussion among the small group of participants.

Each session lasts about one hour. Meetings will be on Wednesdays gathering either in the afternoon or early evening depending on the schedule needed by those participating. If you or someone you know would like to join our group, please contact **Jo-Ann Piagentini** at [mrspiag@aol.com](mailto:mrspiag@aol.com) or 908-256-5173 or **Linda Madison** at [drindamadison@gmail.com](mailto:drindamadison@gmail.com) or 732-841-5402, to register or to get more information. All inquiries are welcome.



## Learn



### 2024-2025 Registration

PREK3- OPEN SPOTS ✝ PREK4- LIMITED AVAILABILITY

PLEASE CALL FOR AVAILABILITY IN GRADES K-8

St. Matthias School 170 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Somerset, NJ 732-828-1402

### MAKE A DONATION FROM THE HEART. ♥

Consider helping families in need by providing tuition help. Need information on how to contribute to our Tuition Angels Fund? Please contact:

Mrs. Jo-Ann Piagentini, [mrspiag@aol.com](mailto:mrspiag@aol.com) or Dr. Judy Marino, [jdmarino4@gmail.com](mailto:jdmarino4@gmail.com)



### FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN!

2024-2025 **GIFT** for K-8 Religious Formation  
<https://stmatthias.net/faith-formation/>

Attention **2nd Graders:**

First Eucharist Preparation 2024-2025  
<https://stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/>



Attention **7th & 8th Graders or older students who have NOT prepared for Confirmation**  
**Confirmation Preparation 2024-2025**  
<https://stmatthias.net/confirmation/>

Questions? Please call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400 or email Debbie Schurko, [dschurko@stmatthias.net](mailto:dschurko@stmatthias.net)



### Altar Servers Wanted!

Are you a student in grade 5 or higher? Would you like to play a prominent role at Mass each week?

We are looking for students that would like to join the Altar Servers Ministry.

There will be a training session in the church on **Tuesday, September 10 at 7 PM.**

Students should attend the training with a parent or guardian.

If you have any questions, please email sacristan, **Mike Lanyi** at [mdlanyi@comcast.net](mailto:mdlanyi@comcast.net).

See you on the 10th!

### UPDATE ABOUT OUR CHURCH MEDIA PROJECT

After announcing for some time that the preparations are on for installing our new projection and livestream system, we are now in its final stage. The Technicians will be here this week to complete the installation of the screen, projector, cameras etc. Some of our parishioners have voiced their concern about projecting images or placing screen on the wall as they feel that we are violating the sanctity of the sanctuary. That would have been a concern in any other church where the sanctuary and wall are contiguous or in close proximity. It is not the case in our church. Our sanctuary and altar are surrounded by people. There is a distance of over 20 feet between the altar and the wall, and our choir is filling that gap. Hence the concern some of our parishioners feel is not applicable in our case considering the unique layout of our church. Having the sanctuary with the altar and the pulpit in the center with people surrounding it is what makes us uniquely a Eucharistic community.

The new livestream system, with its high-definition remote-controlled cameras, will vastly improve image brightness and contrast. Mr. Jeff Beck and Mr. Joe Mancuso have been working tirelessly on this project. We hope to see a very much improved experience of the media use in our church. We are grateful to the parishioners who have been volunteering to help with the tech part of projecting the slides for our Sunday Masses. We wish to invite more such tech-savvy parishioners to consider volunteering to help with the live-streaming once the media update is complete.



# 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 5 - August 4, 2024	\$8,816.00	\$13,160.50	\$21,976.50	\$28,579.75
Week 6 - August 11, 2024	\$9,162.00	\$25,127.00	\$34,289.00	\$28,745.75
Week 7 - August 18, 2024	\$13,752.00	\$13,153.50	\$26,905.50	\$29,132.75
Week 8 - August 25, 2024	\$8,666.00	\$11,436.50	\$20,102.50	\$19,508.25
			Month-to-date Total	August Total Last Year
			\$103,273.50	\$105,966.50
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of August 31, 2023
			\$202,068.00	\$226,076.35

## Stewardship Reflection September 1, 2024 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only...” James 1:22  
It’s easy to understand the definition of stewardship – living a grateful and generous life. The hard part is doing it! How do your words and actions reflect God’s word? Do you share your time in prayer with God daily? Do you use your talent to help those in need without expecting anything in return? Are you generous with your financial resources? If not, what are you waiting for?

## Reflexiónese - 1 de septiembre de 2024 Domingo 22<sup>o</sup> del Tiempo Ordinario

“Pongan en práctica la palabra y no se limiten a sólo escucharla...” Santiago 1:22  
Es fácil entender la definición de corresponsabilidad – es vivir una vida agradecida y generosa. ¡La parte difícil es hacerlo! ¿Cómo reflejan sus palabras y sus acciones la palabra de Dios? ¿Comparte diariamente con Dios su tiempo en oración? ¿Utiliza su talento para ayudar a los necesitados sin esperar nada a cambio? ¿Eres generoso con tus recursos financieros? Si no es así, ¿qué estas esperando?



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



Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. If you want to simplify your life, visit our website, [www.stmatthias.net/give/](http://www.stmatthias.net/give/).

We thank you for your support which enables St. Matthias to minister to the community.

# Connecting to Our Local Community



## 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/>

## RETREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN OF OUR PARISH

Are you seeking some time away from the stress and anxiety of daily life? Do you wish to improve your spiritual life? Can you use some holy rest with Our Lord? Why not consider a Catholic retreat!!! A Catholic retreat is a journey of faith, a time for renewal and spiritual growth. It is a time to leave worldly things behind and be filled by the grace of the Holy Spirit as you renew your bonds with Jesus and the Eucharist.

St. Matthias parish invites women to attend a Catholic women's retreat at San Alfonso Retreat House (732-222-2731), on the ocean in Long Branch, New Jersey.

The Date is **November 8-10, 2024**, and the theme is The Eucharist and the Hungers of the Human Heart.

The Redemptorist retreat team "will offer an opportunity to get in touch with the hunger within our own heart and an encounter with the living Christ through prayer, scripture, community and most importantly, the Eucharist which satisfies that hunger."

The Fee is \$300. It includes comfortable lodging with shared toilet and shower (the sinks are in the rooms), 6 home-cooked meals at a beautiful ocean-side facility on a vast setting with two chapels, cozy private meditation rooms, a library with beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean, and beach for peaceful walks and private time with the Lord.

Space limited: For reservations contact **Rita Dinicola**: [rdinicola26@gmail.com](mailto:rdinicola26@gmail.com) or **Mary Guardino**: [maryfff@aol.com](mailto:maryfff@aol.com)



## Wednesday, September 11 from 1-2:30pm

### DRUMMING ECSTASY CIRCLE presented by Barbara Woodzell

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Barbara is a Mercy Associate and musical therapist.

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## Parish Leadership

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b> <b>Co-Chairs:</b> Frank Rees <a href="mailto:Frees814@gmail.com">Frees814@gmail.com</a> Marilyn Wegg <a href="mailto:mcw-wam@comcast.net">mcw-wam@comcast.net</a>	<b>Co-Secretaries:</b> Stephen Busono <a href="mailto:sbusono@gmail.com">sbusono@gmail.com</a> Bill Isele <a href="mailto:t33sm@aol.com">t33sm@aol.com</a> Al Drabnis Didi Molano	Sheila Tartaglia Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio <b>Trustees:</b> Pearl Scott Marge Richards	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b> Kester Hector, Chair <b>Finance Council</b> <a href="mailto:@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a> Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Joan Pritchard	Cory Panlilio Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
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## About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

**Parish Registration** — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. [www.stmatthias.net/join-us](http://www.stmatthias.net/join-us), or visit the Parish Office.

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

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

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



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



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