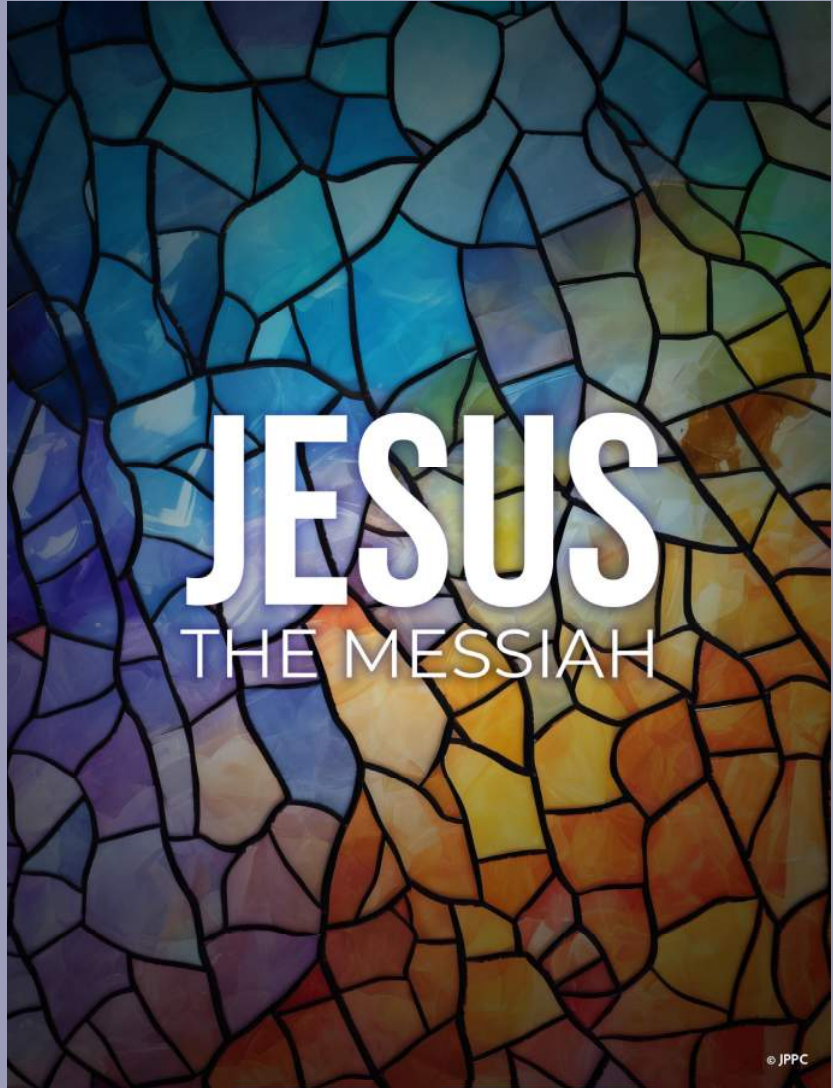




THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024
 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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 745AM to 330PM

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**

TODAY IS
CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

New Jersey March for Life is on
September 26

Details on page 7



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME
 QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.
 OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING,
 SEPTEMBER 16, 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, Sept 15, 2024 Building R&R Collection
 1st day of Hispanic Heritage Month**

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

Monday, Sept 16, 2024 St. Cornelius, Pope & St. Cyprian, Martyrs

8:00AM Mass Church
 6:00PM Eucharistic Adoration Church

Tuesday, Sept 17, 2024 St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor

8:00AM Mass Church
 6:30PM SAC Mtg. de Porres Rm
 7:00PM Baptism Prep- Virtual
 7:30PM Handbell Rehearsal Church

Wednesday, Sept 18, 2024 St. Joseph of Cupertino, Mystic

8:00AM Mass St. Joseph Novena Church
 9:30AM Holy Spirit Prayer Group de Porres Room
 7:00PM GIFT Planning-Zoom or in person
 7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, Sept 19, 2024 St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr

8:00AM Mass Church
 1:00PM Prayer Shawl Ministry Ruiz Rm
 3:30PM Children's Choir, Gr. 3&4 Church
 4:00PM Children's Choir Gr. 5-8 Church
 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday, Sept 20, 2024 Andrew Kim & Companions, Martyrs

8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, Sept 21, 2024 St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

9:30AM Secular Franciscans Mtg. de Porres Rm
 10:00AM Caregivers Mtg. Ruiz Rm
 11:00AM Chair Yoga Cafeteria
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM HISPANIC HERITAGE Month Mass Church

Sunday, Sept 22, 2024

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Sign Language Interpreter 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 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,

What do you think of the new screen in our church? Thank you to those of you who approached me or Fr. Lancelot, and shared your joyful approval and positive feedbacks about it - far from the doubts and concerns some had before seeing it. It was a labor of love – extended over four years of deliberations, fund-raising, planning, checking with other parishes with similar media projects, choosing a company that would give us the best service, and spending so many hours in meetings, consultations, revisions, re-scheduling, and so on and so forth. Thanks be to God that it has already made a big difference in the participation of the congregation to pray and sing – as many of you commented - due to the clarity of the letters on the screen which can be seen from all angles as well as all the way back. The livestream of the Mass has excellent clarity of the video and sound for those who are watching online. This is an asset for the parish not only for enhancing our liturgy but also for faith formation, sacramental prep and other events.

In the contest of enhancing our liturgical experience, I wish to share with you that Joan Seamon, our music director, and I have been getting some letters about our music. The good news is that these letters were not concerned about the quality of music or singing during Mass. They were appreciative of our music ministers and the quality of their singing. The concern was regarding the desire to have some quiet time to pray in the church before the Mass.

The rehearsal before Mass is a common practice in many parishes – though where the rehearsal takes place varies. But, the unique situation of our church is that the position of the choir is directly facing the congregation which is perfectly fine during Mass. Yet, during the rehearsal, the choir is, as one put it, “in your face”, making it very distracting for people who want to pray. During rehearsal, it is only human and natural to have some small talk, fun, laughter, etc, all of which are watched by the congregation and it is not surprising that those who want to concentrate in prayer/meditation/silence are unable to do so.

More letters began to come in the recent months from parishioners as well as visitors (some anonymous, few with names) – all of which I have shared with Joan Seamon. Some parishioners talked to me in person on this matter. Some wanted me to send the choir back to the loft - which I flatly refused stating that it would not happen during my pastorate. That was one of the reasons I spoke at all the four Masses of one weekend last month (and two Masses previous to that) about why we are a Eucharistic community where the people are surrounding the altar and sanctuary, and that I was not interested in changing the layout of our church. I also discussed these matters with all our deacons and Fr. Lancelot.

After all these months of prayerful reflection, consultations, and listening, my own discernment is that the desire for some quiet time in the church before Mass is not only genuine but is also required by the Church. *The General Instruction for the Roman Missal* says that there should be a quiet opportunity in the church for the faithful to prepare prayerfully for the Holy Mass (GIRM, no. 45). We have to admit humbly that we have not been practicing this in our church. Considering all these, I have asked Joan to create that time of sacred silence by not having the practice in the church from now on. I understand it will bring some unhappiness and inconvenience. But such sacrifice by a few is for the greater good of our larger community. We are very proud and grateful that we have the best church music in our diocese and beyond. Thank you Joan and all the Music Ministers.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33 Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22 Lk 7:31-35

Thursday 1 Cor 15:1-11 Ps 118:1B-2, 16AB-17, 28 Lk 7:36-50

Friday 1 Cor 15:12-20 Ps 17:1BCD, 6-7, 8B and 15 Lk 8:1-3

Saturday Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 Mt 9:9-13

Sunday Wis 2:12, 17-20 Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6 and 8 Jas 3:16-4:3 Mk 9:30-37



Mass Intentions for the Week

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|--|
| Saturday, September 14 | 5:00pM | Birthday Blessings for Regina Mallare, by Sister |
| Sunday, September 15 | 8:00AM | Rosario Ontong, by The Family |
| Sunday, September 15 | 8:00AM | Intention of Parishioners |
| | 10:00AM | Ann & Michael Koruda, by The Aiello Family |
| | 12:00PM | Edgardo Mallare, by Sister |
| Monday, September 16 | 8:00AM | Lou Carcich, by The Carcich Family |
| Tuesday, September 17 | 8:00AM | Grace & Bob McLaughlin, by The Mancuso Family |
| Wednesday, September 18 | 8:00AM | Lee Bintliff, by Nancy & George Stanek |
| Thursday, September 19 | 8:00AM | Charles Meden, by Kathy Meden Deangelis |
| Friday, September 20 | 8:00AM | In Memory of Mauro DeFeo, by daughter Lisa |
| Saturday, September 21 | 5:00pM | Jennifer Brown, by Mom & Dad |
| Sunday, September 22 | 8:00AM | Bill Dolphin, by St. Vincent dePaul Society |
| | 10:00AM | Frank Fisher, by Family |
| | 12:00PM | Intention of Parishioners |

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

Pray for those who have died... — “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Claudia Gemgnani, Rodrique Jean-Louis

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



A college student could not take his seminar final exam because of a funeral. "No problem," the teacher told him. "Make it up the following week." That week came, and again he couldn't take the test due to another funeral. "You'll have to take the test early next week," the professor insisted. "I can't keep postponing it." "I'll take the test next week if no one dies," the undergrad replied. By now the instructor was suspicious. "How can you have so many people you know pass away in three weeks?" "I don't know any of these people," the student exclaimed. "But I'm the only gravedigger in town." 😊

What do you write on a robot's grave? = Rust in piece 😊

What kind of party do prisoners like most of all?

A going-away party 😊

Starving after hours of driving nonstop, my husband and I pulled over at a truck stop. While he gassed up the car, I went into the restaurant and placed our order to go. After writing it all down, the girl behind the register asked, "Will that be all for you?" "No," I replied a bit defensively. "Some of it's for my husband." 😊

College student: "Hey, Dad -- I've got some great news for you!"

Father: "What, son?"

College student: "Remember that \$500 you promised me if I made the Dean's list?" Father: "I certainly do."

College student: "Well, you get to keep it!" 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

Have you had a Family Night recently? Don't know what to do? Try a walk down Memory Lane with your kids. Dig out some photos of their birth to more recent times and reminisce together. Maybe they'd even like to see photos of you growing up, if you dare.

Marriage Tune-Up

Research studies show that men who kiss their wives before leaving in the morning live 5 years longer than those who don't.

Don't want to be a widower?

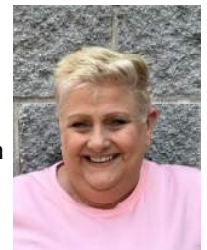
Remember this. I suppose this works in the reverse too (wives kissing their husbands before leaving).



Let me
tell you
about my
Jesus

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY JESUS CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

Today is Catechetical Sunday, a day dedicated to reflecting on the essence of catechesis, which means to "echo" the "kerygma"—the proclamation of the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord. This celebration is not only for those involved in catechetical ministry but also, and perhaps most importantly, for parents and families. Parents are the primary educators or catechists of their children, teaching through their lived example of faith and their love for it.



I am Debbie Schurko, the new Director of Religious Education here at the Catholic Community of St. Matthias. After serving as the DRE/PCL at St. Francis Cathedral in Metuchen for the past 23 years, I bring over 36 years of experience in various models of faith formation and catechesis. For me, it's never been about the when and where I have been, it's always been about the who and why.

The "Who" is my Jesus, and the "why" is because He is my Savior. He makes the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, He heals the broken, He died for our sins, and rose from the dead. He remains with us in the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith, offering His body, blood, soul, and divinity so that we may have life.

The theme for this year's Catechetical Sunday is: "Lord, when did we see you hungry?" (Matthew 25:37). When we reach out to those who are hungry, we are finding and feeding Christ. Hunger can be physical, spiritual, emotional etc. Our faith formation or religious education is all about satisfying the hunger of our soul for God and guiding them in His ways. When we help others find answers to their spiritual quest, we are bringing Jesus to them.....

We all have our own Jesus story. It is important that we encourage one another to use our voices and talents to share our faith, as this helps build the Kingdom of God. Let us pray to God, our loving Father, to open our hearts and minds to His Word, to Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, to the Holy Spirit, and to each other.

May all that we do always be for the greater glory of God.

Debbie Schurko

“Deny Yourself?!” Who wants to!!

“Deny yourself and take up your cross.” Jesus said so, but who likes to practice this? The University of Chicago did a five-year study of leading artists, athletes, and scholars. Directed by Dr. Benjamin Bloom, the research was based on anonymous interviews with the top twenty performers in various fields. These people included concert pianists, Olympic swimmers, tennis players, sculptors, mathematicians, and neurologists. Bloom and his team of researchers from the University of Chicago probed for clues as to how these achievers developed. For a more complete picture, they interviewed their families and teachers. The report stated conclusively that drive and determination, not great natural talent, led to the extraordinary success of these individuals. Bloom noted, “We expected to find tales of great natural gifts. We didn't find that at all. Their mothers often said it was another child who had the greater talents.” What they found were extraordinary accounts of hard work and dedication: The pianist who practiced several hours a day for seventeen years; the swimmer who rolled out of bed every morning at half past five to do laps for two hours before school, etc. [Dr. Denis E. Waitley, *Winning the Innovation Game* (New York: Berkley Books, 1986).]

Are you in the 12% of Americans...?

According to research conducted by George Gallup, 12% of Americans are “highly spiritually committed.” They are those who truly understand what Jesus meant when he said, “Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me.” Gallup says the members of this group are “a breed apart from the rest of the populace in at least four ways: 1. They're happier. 2. Their families are stronger. 3. They're more tolerant of people of different races and religions. 4. They're community-minded.” They're involved in service to others. That is cross-bearing that really makes a difference.

Do we have enough Faith to offer up a genuine sacrifice for Christ's sake? Can a Church in today's self-centered culture ask its people to sacrifice something for the sake of the Gospel? Jesus' challenge to all would-be disciples requires more than a “feel-good” spirituality. A true disciple asks, “Am I willing to sacrifice something for the God Who loves me?” What made it possible for first-century Christians to choose a martyr's death? What has kept generations of Christians from losing Faith and falling apart when confronted by the violence and hatred of this world? Can we offer even the day-to-day sacrifices asked by Jesus when they demand things we don't want to do? Can we sacrifice some of our time in order to visit Him in a homeless shelter or soup kitchen? Can we sacrifice our job security and refuse to “go along” with a policy that is unjust? Can we sacrifice our need to be in control and let Christ do with us what he will? Can we prevent our children watching TV programs filled with sex and violence?

“Take up your Cross?” Who will want to!!

Taking up one's cross seems to be an unpleasant or unacceptable notion in today's world. Yet, in a national study, when the nation's top achievers were asked to rate the factors they consider most important in contributing to their own success, hard work emerges as the highest-rated factor. Not talent or luck but hard work. Psychologists followed the careers of violinists studying at the Music Academy of West Berlin. By the time they were 18, the academy's best students had already spent about 2,000 more hours in practice, on average, than had their fellow students. That is denying yourself and taking up a cross. Business Guru Tom Peters recalls a wonderful story of a musician, it may have been cellist Pablo Casals, who died at almost one hundred years of age. The morning he died he was downstairs practicing at 6:00 a.m. “That's just lovely,” says Peters. It is lovely if being the best at what you do is important to you. So we have a choice. We can heed part of Jesus' words, “Deny yourself and take up your cross,” and have all the success this world has to offer. And there's nothing really wrong with that.

Jesus wants us to be the very best of whatever we choose to be, as long as it does not cost us our souls. There is a better way, however. Use Jesus as your guide. Follow Jesus. Deny yourself by giving yourself for others in Jesus' name. That's where real happiness lies. That's what ultimate success is all about.

God will never abandon you!

Two travelers were on the road, when a bear suddenly appeared. Both ran as fast as they could. One dashed to a tree by the side of the road, climbed up and hid in its branches. The other was not able to climb and hide. So he threw himself on the ground and pretended to be dead. The bear came and sniffed the man lying on the ground. The man kept perfectly still and held his breath knowing that a bear will not touch a dead body. The bear took him for a corpse and went away. When the coast was clear, the traveler who hid on the tree went down and asked his companion, “What did the bear whisper to you when he put his mouth close to your ear?” The companion replied, “He told me never to travel again with a friend who deserts you at the first sight of danger!”

God can never abandon us. Bible promises that many times. A few instances:
Hebrews 13:5: Be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
Deuteronomy: 4:31: the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you
Deuteronomy 31:6: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”
Matthew 28:20: Jesus said, “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Reflect

“Take that cross out of that wall!”



"In the rolling hills of northern New Jersey stands a small church with a large, stone cross cut into an inside wall. Now, it happened that one of the church's wealthier members didn't like the cross there and said it was an eyesore. He offered to give a huge donation to the church in order to take the cross out of the wall and

replace it with a stained glass window. However, when he presented his idea to the church's parish council members, they said to him, 'We cannot do what you ask. The architect designed the church to have this cross; it gives strength to the wall. If you take away the cross, you will destroy the Church.'" [Rev. Erskine White, *The Victory of the Cross* (CSS Publishing Company, 1991).] The Architect of our salvation designed the Church to have the cross. The cross gives strength to the Church. Take away the cross and you do not have a Church.

Are we ready to take up our crosses and follow Jesus? Do we have enough faith to offer up a genuine sacrifice for Christ's sake? Can a Church in today's self-centered culture ask its people to sacrifice something for the sake of the Gospel? Jesus' challenge to all would-be disciples requires more than a "feel-good" spirituality. A true disciple asks, "Am I willing to sacrifice something for the God Who loves me?" What made it possible for first-century Christians to choose a martyr's death? What has kept generations of Christians from losing faith and falling apart when confronted by the violence and hatred of this world? Can we offer even the day-to-day sacrifices asked by Jesus when they demand things we don't want to do? Can we sacrifice some of our time in order to visit Him in a homeless shelter or soup kitchen? Can we sacrifice our job security and refuse to "go along" with a policy that is unjust? Can we sacrifice our need to be in control and let Christ do with us what he will? Can we refuse to let our children watch television programs filled with sex

Some False Public Opinions about Christ!

MORMONS: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, more commonly called the Mormons, incorporates the Lord's name in its title, but its beliefs about Jesus are fatally flawed. Apostle Bruce Redd McConkie, an influential Mormon theologian, wrote a basic compendium of the Mormon gospel, entitled *Mormon Doctrine*. According to McConkie, Mormons believe that "Lucifer, the son of the morning, is our elder brother, and the brother of Jesus." *The Journal of Discourses*, a 26-volume Mormon publication presenting public sermons by many early Mormon leaders, includes such statements as this: "Jesus, our elder brother was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the Garden of Eden, and who is our father in Heaven." The same volumes assert, "Jesus was married at Cana of Galilee and had many wives ... he also had many children." From these writings, it is clear that the Mormons fail the test when it comes to answering Jesus Christ's question, "Who do you say I am?" (v. 29).

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES: "Who do you say Jesus is?" The Jehovah's Witness publication, *New Heavens and New Earth*, declares by way of response, "Michael the Archangel is no other than the only begotten Son of God, now Jesus Christ."

ISLAM: Ask the Muslim who Jesus is and the answer we get from official publications is "Jesus was no more than a mortal whom Allah favored and made an example to the Israelites. They are unbelievers who say God is Messiah, Mary's son" (Sura 43:59, Quran).

Public opinion about Jesus Christ, even by those who claim to be Christians, is false or incomplete. *Until people see Jesus as Peter did, as "the Christ, the Son of the Living God," they all miss the mark.*

Pray



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.

Connect

Catholic Community of St. Matthias

RACIAL
JUSTICE
INITIATIVE



Catholic Social Teaching in the Public Square ELECTION 2024 REFLECTION SERIES

Thursday, September 19th, 7 - 8:30 pm in the John XXIII room at St. Matthias.

SESSION 1 - HUMAN DIGNITY

Topics discussed will be voting rights and criminal justice reform.



Human life is sacred. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Catholic teaching about the dignity of life calls us to oppose torture, unjust war, and the indiscriminate use of drones for violent purposes: to prevent genocide and attacks against noncombatants; to oppose racism; to oppose human trafficking; and to overcome poverty and suffering.

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/



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH MASS

Like everything else in September, our parish life picks up with renewed opportunities to give thanks and praise to our God, celebrate our faith, and renew our call to spread the Good News as a family of believers. At the **5:00 Mass on Saturday, September 21, 2024** as we have for many years, we will celebrate a bilingual Mass to mark Hispanic Heritage Month.

As they say in Spanish, *los esperamos* - we will be waiting for you - and we look forward to gathering at Eucharist with you.

We invite parishioners and friends celebrating their Hispanic heritage to wear their ethnic dress at this liturgy.

CAREGIVER/CARE SUPPORT MINISTRY MEETING

We'd like to invite parishioners who are caring for ill loved ones, or are coping with chronic illness themselves, and in need of spiritual and emotional support, to join us for discussion and prayer in the Parish Office - Ruiz Room.

DATE: SATURDAY, September 21st

TIME: 10:00 - 11:30am

PLACE: Ruiz Room in the Parish Office



Please contact: Donna Kahora, donnakahora@yahoo.com, 732-246-2124 for details if you are interested in joining us.

FESTIVAL OF FILIPINO SAINTS

The Diocese of Metuchen Filipino Apostolate cordially invites everyone to celebrate the Festival of Filipino Saints at 7 pm on:

September 25 - St Frances Cabrini Church, Piscataway

September 26 - St Cecelia Church, Iselin

September 27 - **ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH**, Somerset

The festival Mass will be on **September 29** at **St Francis Cathedral**, Metuchen at 5pm

All Are Welcome



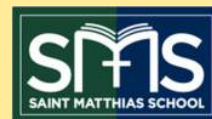
The New Jersey Mass and March for Life, will take place in Trenton on Thursday, September 26. Remember, with the 2022 overturning of Roe v Wade, the Supreme Court restored the decision to regulate or prohibit abortion to each state. Those who faithfully traveled to Washington each January for this pro-life cause have an easier opportunity because this September event is in Trenton – closer home.

Learn



ST. MATTHIAS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM WORKERS NEEDED

St. Matthias School is in need of workers for our After School Program. Hours are 2:30PM-6:00PM. Please email **Mary Lynch** mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org & **Tesha Barr** tbarr@stmatthiasnj.org or call 732-828-1402 for more information.



3rd Annual St. Matthias School HSA Fall Mum Sale



Now-Saturday, September 21st
8" Potted Mums in Your Choice of Colors
Bronze-Purple-Orange-Pink-Red-White-Yellow
\$11 each or 3 for \$27

Pick up at St. Matthias Parking Lot
Saturday, September 28th (tentative)

Link to order: <https://forms.gle/cegQtA4WDF4xKLN7A>



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/>



Confirmation

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



Communion

Questions? Please call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400 or email Debbie Schurko, dschurko@stmatthias.net

Serve



MORNING OF SERVICE

The next Morning of Service will be held on **Saturday, September 21st**. If you are interested in volunteering that morning, please email **John and Coleen Zdziarski** at jzdzarski@comcast.net. Please note that those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. **The sites are:**

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

GENTLY USED WINTER COATS NEEDED!

Rather than toss last year's winter coat in a bin, parishioners are invited to drop gently used coats that are clean, with working zippers, off on the Center for Great Expectation's porch (House B) at:

19 B Dellwood Lane on **Wednesdays or Thursdays in September**.

We are looking to provide winter coats to **women, teens in both sexes, and children (over age 5)** in our Supportive Housing program.

Thank you in advance for helping!



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 | | | | \$24,225.00 |
| Week 12 - September 22, 2024 | | | | \$18,885.75 |
| Week 13 - September 29, 2025 | | | | |
| | | | Month-to-date Total | September Total Last Year |
| Peter's Pence: \$4,561.10 | | | \$53,515.65 | \$98,964.06 |
| | | | Current Year-to-date | Year-to-date as of Sep 30, 2023 |
| | | | | \$219,735.06 |

Stewardship Reflection September 15, 2024 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” Mark 8:34

Living a stewardship lifestyle means not only being responsible for my own life, but for the lives of others as well. We realize that our gifts are not intended for ourselves, rather they are meant to be shared with others. “Taking up my cross,” means doing things when someone else needs me and not when it is convenient for me.

Reflexiónese - 15 de septiembre de 2024 Domingo 24° del Tiempo Ordinario

“Si alguien quiere ser mi discípulo, que se niegue a sí mismo, tome su cruz y me siga.” MARCOS 8:34

Vivir un estilo de vida de corresponsabilidad significa que no solo seré responsable por mi propia vida, sino también de la vida de los demás. Nos damos cuenta de que nuestros dones no fueron dispuestos para nosotros mismos, sino más bien para compartirlos con otros. “Cargar mi cruz” quiere decir hacer las cosas cuando alguien más las necesita y no cuando es conveniente para mí.



**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



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, go to our website, www.stmatthias.net and click on the Parish Giving Link under ‘Give’.

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

Connecting to Our Local Community



The Virtue of Women: A Kaleidoscope of Colors

Saturday, September 28, 2024
10:00AM-2:00PM

St. Francis Center at Monocacy Manor
395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017

We invite you to join us in this season of color and change, as we bring into focus our call to become good and virtuous women as described in Proverbs 31. Witness the virtues found in the women of Scripture, as well as in contemporary times. Then examine your own heart and ask yourself, “What is the virtue I most desire?”

Facilitators: Sister Nancy Iampietro, CPS and Sister Barbara Brown, OSF

Registration Details: Registration is \$30 per person, including light lunch.

To register online visit www.SchoolSistersOsf.org/upcoming-events/virtues-of-women or email Lauren Martin at lmartin@schoolsistersosf.org

HEALING MASS

A Healing Mass with Rev. John Campoli, I.V. Dei will be held at Our Lady of Peace Church in North Brunswick on **Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 7:00PM**. All are welcome to attend this Mass & celebration of God's Healing Love & Mercy. This Mass is sponsored by the Parish Columbiettes.

For more information please visit: www.frjohncampoli.com

Our Lady of Peace Church is located at 1730 US Hwy 130, North Brunswick, NJ 08902



Catholic Charities USA

Be a Champion for Catholic Charities

You are invited to join CHAMPIONS for CATHOLIC CHARITIES—a community of individual and corporate benefactors who support the vital services for our neighbors in need provided by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Over 60,000 people are helped each year through more than 100 programs in the New Jersey counties of Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Warren. Catholic Charities continues to work each day to renew hope and bring wholeness to those broken in body and spirit, and we invite you to join us in putting love into action by becoming a CHAMPION for CATHOLIC CHARITIES.

Go to www.diometuchen.org/champions to make a gift or download a raffle form to purchase a ticket. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Checks should be made payable to Champions for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, PO Box 191, Metuchen, NJ 08840-0191. Questions may be directed by email to champions@diometuchen.org or by phone to 732-562-2432.

Parish Leadership

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

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

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

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

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

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



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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