



**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, 10 AM & 12 noon  
M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM  
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 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**

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**

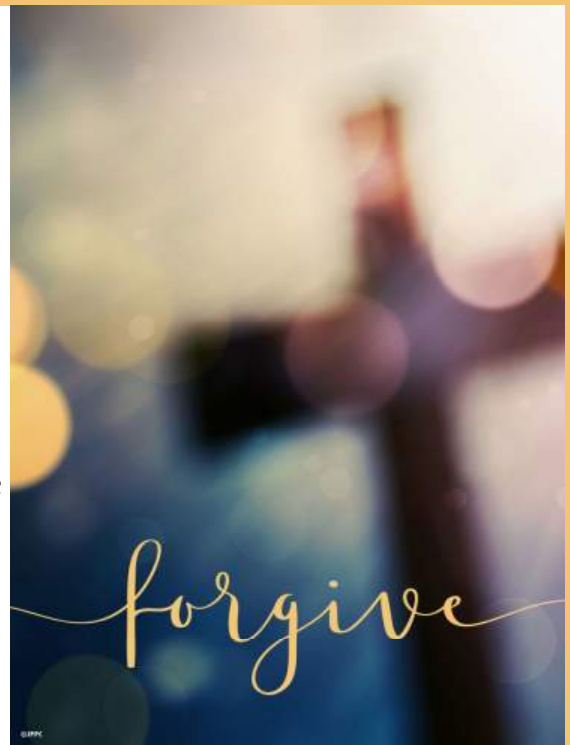
Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, **OSF, Pastoral**  
**Assoc. for Social Concerns**, **msherwood**

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

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**  
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Today's  
second  
collection is our  
quarterly  
collection for the  
maintenance of  
our Parish  
Facilities.



**Join us for Mass, Food, and Fun!**

**TODAY, September 17th**  
**at the Noon Mass**  
followed by food and fun  
in the school cafeteria!

**All youth ages 6th grade**  
**through high school are welcome!**



**ADORATION WILL RESUME THIS**  
**MONDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 18TH**  
**FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO**  
**SPEND SOME QUIET TIME**  
**WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.**

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.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, Sep 17, 2023 Building Repair & Replacement Fund Collection**

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

**Monday, Sep 18, 2023 St. Joseph of Cupertino, Mystic**

8:00AM Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena Church  
 6:00PM Eucharist Adoration Church

**Tuesday, Sep 19, 2023 St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr**

8:00AM Mass Church

**Wednesday, Sep 20, 2023 Andrew Kim & Co, Martyrs**

**International Day of Peace**

8:00AM Mass—St. Joseph Novena Church  
 9:30AM Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit de Porres Rm  
 10:00AM Senior Ministry Team Mtg. Neumann Rm  
 7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

**Thursday, Sep 21, 2023 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 10:00AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Ruiz Rm  
 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, Sep 22, 2023 St. Thomas of Villanova, Religious & Bishop**

8:00AM Mass Church

**Saturday, Sep 23, 2023 Padre Pio, Priest, Mystic & Stigmatist**

8:00AM NBCC Follow-up Session John XXIII Rm  
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church  
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

**Sunday, Sep 24, 2023**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 10:00AM Mass Church  
 12:00PM Mass Church  
 3:30PM SMYLE Youth Group Cafeteria

**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 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,

Today's second collection is our quarterly collection for the Maintenance of our Parish Facilities. This was initiated over two years ago with the goal of saving some money for unforeseen repairs and unexpected breakdowns of our physical plant components that are aging. This is different from the 60th Anniversary Fundraising that began recently with specific goals like constructing the new bathroom, renovating the physical worship space, etc. Thanks to many of you whose enthusiastic response raised the thermometer in the narthex to 70% of the \$200,000 goal that we had set. If you have not responded, this is the right time to make a contribution. Please consider.

Last Sunday in my homily, I spoke about the "Ministry of Invitation" to help those alienated from the church to return. Let me expand on that: A study by *Life Way Research Inc.* showed the importance of inviting others to church. Here are some findings from that study:

- 67% of Americans say a personal invitation from a family member would be very or somewhat effective in getting them to visit a church.
- 63% of Americans say a personal invitation from a friend or neighbor would be very or somewhat effective in getting them to visit a church.
- 63% of Americans are very or somewhat willing to receive information about a local congregation or faith community from a family member.
- 56% of Americans are very or somewhat willing to receive information about a local congregation or faith community from a friend or neighbor.

Such is the power of personal invitation that it is now called a MINISTRY in itself. This ministry is the duty of every member of the Church. In his book *Evangelism in the Early Church*, historian Michael Green argued that evangelism was the prerogative and duty of every church member. Green argues that "Christianity was supremely a lay movement, spread by informal missionaries ... the spontaneous outreach of the total Christian community gave immense impetus to the movement from the very outset." So let us be conscious of our duty as lay ministers and missionaries to our own people.

One may ask, "Why would people respond to an invitation?" Because people are looking for true fellowship and true community. Several missiologists have stated this truth: "In our post-Christian nation, people who are skeptical of the faith are often attracted to the Christian community before they are attracted to the Christian message. Therefore, introducing people into the relational network of a local church community becomes an important aspect of their journey to the faith."

We are very fortunate that our St. Matthias Community is truly a welcoming community. Thank you to those of you who have invited others to our Sunday worship or to our parish events, or by distributing/sharing our parish bulletin. How wonderful if the rest of us can follow that good example!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Lk 7:1-10

**Tuesday:** 1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-3ab, 5-6; Lk 7:11-17

**Wednesday:** 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 7:31-35

**Thursday:** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13

**Friday:** 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20; Lk 8:1-3

**Saturday:** 1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 8:4-15

**Sunday:** Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Sep 16</b>	5:00PM	Marie DeFeo, by Daughter, Lisa
<b>Sunday, Sep 17</b>	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Alfons Nowakowski, by Daughter, Irene
	12:00PM	Bob & Grace Mc Laughlin, by the Mancuso Family
<b>Monday, Sep 18</b>	8:00AM	Mary Gidaro, by Vinnie
<b>Tuesday, Sep 19</b>	8:00AM	Dave Moynihan, by Vinnie
<b>Wednesday, Sep 20</b>	8:00AM	Jennifer Brown, by Mom & Dad
<b>Thursday, Sep 21</b>	8:00AM	Helen Vanni, by JoAnn Piagentini
<b>Friday, Sep 22</b>	8:00AM	Frank Fischer, by The Family
<b>Saturday, Sep 23</b>	5:00PM	Mary Dolan, by Vinnie & Ethel
<b>Sunday, Sep 24</b>	8:00AM	Frank Sciotto, by Wife & Children
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Health & Blessings for Nnenna & Kachi Nwanonyiri, by Kate Nwanonyiri

## 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	<a href="#">Marie Godet</a>	Al Maglio	Maria Schwenzer
Tammy Baskaran	Linda Hartong	Anne McElwee	Amy Shepp
Regina Berlowitz	Marilyn Horvath	Margaret Menendez	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Bishop Paul Bootkowski	Baby Elaine Isele	Carol Millemann	Sr. Bernadine Marie Stemnock
Barbara Butler	Amanda Isele	Eleanor Nagy	Jeff Sullivan
Tara Capatosto	<a href="#">Bill Johnson</a>	Joseph Nguyen	Tom Szabo
Elizabeth Card	<a href="#">Renée Jolly</a>	Danny Ongchango	Mary Ann Vlaud
Ellen Catalina	Nancy Kane	Robert Pellegrino	Eileen Weber
Kyle Davidson	Robert Kashinsky	Jim Pettit	Nancy Whelan
Lisa DeFeo	Betsy Kondrat	Randolff Pinard	Carl Wyopen
Zenon DeGuzman	Kathleen Langenbacher	Valerie Polci	Angie Yetyet
Hattie Evans	Rose Larangeira	Kim Price	<a href="#">Anne Zando</a>
Josephine Geenty	Mary Lou Litrakis	Denise Pultro	
Claudia Gemgnani	John Litrakis	Doris Regan	
Helen Geraghty	Carol Ann Loftus	Gabriel Rivera	
Emma Gergely	Joseph Lubrano	Arina Robinson	
Gerry & Jack Gernert	Aries Magali	Arthur Robinson	

**And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.**

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Mary Barrood, Mary Ann Vetter, Louis Nepote

# Reflect



## Smile with Your Family



Two little brothers, Harry and James, had finished supper and were playing until bedtime. Somehow, Harry hit James with a stick, and tears and bitter words followed. Charges and accusations were still being exchanged as their mother prepared them for bed. She said, "Now boys, what would happen if either of you died tonight or you never had the opportunity again for forgiving one another?" James spoke up, "Well, OK, I'll forgive him tonight, but if we're both alive in the morning, he'd better look out." 😊

While checking his bags at the airport, a man became indignant with the employee who handled luggage. For several minutes he belittled the young man and criticized his every move. Surprisingly, the employee didn't seem troubled by this man's verbal abuse. After the angry passenger entered the airport, a woman approached the luggage handler and asked, "How do you put up with such injustice?" The young man said, "It's easy. That guy's going to New York, but I'm sending his bags to Brazil." 😊

The mother ran into the bedroom when she heard her seven-year-old son scream. She found his two-year-old

sister pulling his hair. She gently released the little girl's grip and said comfortingly to the boy, "There, there, she didn't mean it. She doesn't know that it hurts." He nodded his acknowledgment, and she left the room. As she started down the hall the little girl screamed. Rushing back in, she asked, "What happened? The little boy replied, "She knows now." 😊

**Fun-liners:** *Sometimes I have to tell myself, "It's just not worth the jail time!"* 😊

*I really do try to see the best in people. But seriously, some are making it so hard* 😊

*My therapist told me I am obsessed with revenge But I'll show him!* 😊

*Somebody stole my Microsoft Office... But I'll get my revenge. You have my Word.* 😊

*Why can't diabetics get revenge? Because revenge is sweet.* 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

**"How often must I forgive?" (Mt 18:21).**

Kids make mistakes, are selfish, or sometimes just plain mean. Forgiveness does not mean there is no consequence for bad behavior. Don't fear to give a punishment, but wrap it in love and a way to earn forgiveness.



### Marriage Tune-Up

An "Emotional conflict prevention strategy" is to put your spouse on your calendar. Schedule a weekly date and/or an annual enrichment day or weekend.

### Why don't People Forgive?

You may remember Herman Melville's classic novel, *Moby Dick*. The most prominent character is the cruel, obsessive, vengeful Captain Ahab, skipper of the ship. He hates Moby Dick, the great white whale, with a terrible passion. Every waking hour is consumed with the question of how to destroy this leviathan that has crippled him. Soon we see that it is not Moby Dick that is the victim of Captain Ahab's hatred but Ahab himself. In his obsession he kills everything around him – the whale, the crew and finally himself. How could anyone let rage get so out of control? Why do we find it so hard to forgive? Obviously the first answer is that the pain is too deep.

### Hostility Index and Death Rate

There was an interesting study conducted by the Gallup Organization and reported in 1994. In this study, Philadelphia ranked first among U.S. cities on what was called the "hostility index." The hostility index was based on a nine-question scale that asked people how they felt about such things as loud rock music, supermarket checkout lines, and traffic jams. Other cities on the hostility top five were New York, Cleveland, Chicago, and Detroit. Perhaps you saw in the newspapers just a few months ago that New York City has a much higher death rate than average from coronary disease. At the bottom of the hostility index were Des Moines, Minneapolis, Denver, Seattle, and Honolulu. Medical experts looking at the results felt it was no coincidence that the cities that rated high on the hostility index also had higher death rates. Commenting on the study, Dr. Redford Williams of Duke University Medical School said, "Anger kills. There is a strong correlation between hostility and death rates. The angrier people are and the more cynical they are, the shorter their life span." [*Contemporary Illustrations for Preachers, Teachers and Writers*. Craig Brian Larson, ed. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1996), p. 17.] Dr. Robert R. Kopp puts it this way: grudge-holders are grave-diggers and the only graves that they dig are their own. Or as John Huffman once said, "The world's most miserable person is one who won't forgive."

## Reflect

### Can't Forget the Hurt, but can choose to Forgive!

We may never forget the hurt we have experienced, but we can choose to forgive. As life goes on and we remember an incident that was hurtful and caused great anger, we need to remind ourselves that with God's grace we have already forgiven the one that hurt us. Time does heal memories. Time can dull the vividness of the hurt and thus the memory will fade. We must never let the person who hurt us own us. Forgiveness finally changes us from prisoners of our past to being liberated and at peace with our memories. Now we can see that those who cause such destruction and pain are sinful suffering people who need the redeeming grace of Jesus Christ.

### "I left my anger at the Gates of that prison!"

Pete Peterson was appointed U.S. ambassador to Vietnam in the late 1990s. Long before that, however, Peterson had served six years as a prisoner of war in the dreaded "Hanoi Hilton" prison camp. He endured unspeakable brutality, starvation, and torture at the hands of his captives. They robbed him of six years of his life he will never get back. Never. And when asked how he could return to this land as an ambassador, he replied, "I left my anger and regret at the gates of that prison when I walked out in 1972. I just left it behind me and decided to move forward with my life." (*Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda: Live in the Present, Find Your Future* by Dr. Les Parrott, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003).)

**Seventy times seven: Peter asked Jesus how often he ought to forgive his brother, and then answered his own question by suggesting that he should forgive seven times. It was the Rabbinic teaching that a man must forgive his brother three times. The Biblical proof for this was taken from the first and second chapters of Amos where we find a series of condemnations on the various nations for three transgressions (Am.1:3,6,9; Am.1:11,13; Am.2:1,4,6). From this it was deduced that God's forgiveness extends to three offences, and that he visits the sinner with punishment at the fourth. Also, seven was a holy number to Jewish people, symbolizing perfection, fullness, abundance, rest, and completion. Peter expected to be warmly commended. But Jesus' answer was that the Christian must forgive seventy times seven. In other words, there is no reckonable limit to forgiveness.**

### Judy Lawson forgives her son's murderer!

Before her death, Judy Lawson became the spiritual Mother of scores of hardened criminals. On her last Mother's Day, according to Bill Myers, she received 40 Mother's Day cards from former criminals whose lives she touched. Her prison ministry began eighteen months after her son was brutally

murdered. She knew it was God's will for her to forgive the murderer, and she had spoken the words, but she continued to harbor ill will toward the man who had robbed her of her son. She had agreed to never say "no" to God, so when she heard Him saying, "I want you to love the man who killed your son," she had no choice but to fight the natural rage boiling up and to practice Christian love and forgiveness. While visiting a prison to support a friend at a parole hearing, she came face-to-face with the murderer. Controlling her inner struggle in faith, she spoke to the man. "Richard," she said, "my name is Judy Lawson--you murdered my son and I want you to know that I love you and I forgive you." The man began sobbing and the prison guards had to remove her from the facility. She sent the murderer letters. He sent them back. But she continued to write. Her family said, "Stop." Her pastor said, "Stop." But her God said, "Continue." Soon, God's grace broke through and the vicious killer and the victim reconciled and began a ministry together with Judy proclaiming grace and forgiveness to inmates.

**We need to forgive, forget and be reconciled: In the light of eternity and the shortness of our span of life, harboring old grudges is pointless. Neighbors who remained hostile and unforgiving till their death are buried a short distance from one another in the same cemetery. Our ability to forgive is the measure of the depth of our Christianity. The forgiveness that we offer others is the indispensable condition which makes it possible for us to receive God's forgiveness and to pray meaningfully: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Let us remember St. Francis Assisi's prayer: "It is in pardoning that we are pardoned." Our failure to offer pardon means that we have forgotten God's goodness or have not fully appreciated the unconditional forgiveness we have received from Him. What God expects from us is limitless forgiving and an ability to gloss over faults and to keep on loving even in the face of insults.**

### Loose cannon inside the ship in storm

French author Victor Hugo has a short story titled, "93." In the midst of this tale a ship at sea is caught in a terrific storm. Buffeted by the waves, the ship rocks to and fro, when suddenly the crew hears an awesome crashing sound below deck. They know what it is. A cannon they are carrying has broken loose and is smashing into the ship's sides with every list of the ship. Two brave sailors, at the risk of their lives, manage to go below and fasten it again, for they know that the heavy cannon on the inside of their ship is more dangerous to them than the storm on the outside.

**So it is with people. Problems within are often much more destructive to us than the problems without. Today, God's word would take us "below decks" to look inside ourselves concerning the whole matter of forgiveness.**

## Reflect

### Is such forgiveness possible?

Ron Lee Davis, in his book, *A Forgiving God in an Unforgiving World*, tells about a moment when God's remarkable spirit of forgiveness became real to him. His best friend Jim had been hit and killed while out riding a motorcycle. The driver of the car, Mr. Smith, simply hadn't seen Jim in time and had plowed right into him. As Ron drove to visit Jim's parents, he struggled with anger against Mr. Smith. He was amazed to discover, however, that Jim's family felt only compassion for the man who had accidentally killed their son. In fact, the first question they asked when Ron walked through the door was, "Do you know how Mr. Smith is doing?" They had been praying for him all night. (Ron Lee Davis, *A Forgiving God in an Unforgiving World*, p.57. Used in "In His Own Words: Your Sins Are Forgiven" by C. Thomas Hilton, *The Clergy Journal*, October 1998, p. 30). There are people like that in this world. They forgive those who have done them wrong. They are called Christians!

*The Book of Sirach from which our First Reading (Sir 27:30-28:7) is taken today, was written around 180 B.C. by a wise Jew, Jesus Ben Sira, or Sirach. By this time in Israel's history, the great theological battles about monotheism are over, the kings have come and gone, and the Exile is a distant memory. The prophets have been silent for a long time, and many Jews are living in cities where pagans are the majorities. In these circumstances, the writer tells the Jews how to live a good life, what moral and spiritual choices should one make, how awful wrath and anger are and how the sinner "hugs them tight." Release them and let them go, it says. "The vengeful will suffer Yahweh's vengeance; for He remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven." Sirach reminds his listeners that if they don't heal and forgive and show mercy to others, they can't expect to receive much of that in return. This teacher of wisdom tells us how to avoid divine retribution. God treats us the way we treat each other. Today's passage says, in various ways, that it's unwise to nurse grudges and wise to forgive and concludes by reminding us of our own death. "Remember your last days, and set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults."*

### Forgiveness Quotes:

"If we really want to love, we must learn how to forgive." - **Mother Teresa**

"We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love." - **Martin Luther King Jr.**

"I believe forgiveness is the best form of love in any relationship. It takes a strong person to say they're sorry and an even stronger person to forgive." - **Yolanda Hadid**

"Forgiveness is a strange thing. It can sometimes be easier to forgive our enemies than our friends. It can be hardest of all to forgive people we love." - **Fred Rogers**

"Forgiveness is above all a personal choice, a decision of the heart to go against natural instinct to pay back evil with evil." - **Pope John Paul II**

"Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it." - **Mark Twain**

**JESUS: Matthew 6:14** "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

**Luke 6:37** "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

**Mark 11:25** "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

The forgiveness we withhold from another person is a **mercy** we do not show the Lord.

## Give (and Receive!) Special Request

### Maui Relief

The death toll in Maui is 115 as of 9/8 but over 385 people are still missing. The wall of flames that ravaged this beautiful island has left survivors with nothing in their hands. **Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA)** is actively doing relief work on the ground. For those who wish to contribute to the relief effort, donations can be made online directly to CCUSA:

<https://www.diometuchen.org/mauirelief>

## From our Pastoral Staff



### Top 10 Reasons for YOU to join the St. Matthias Folk Group



**10. Singing in Groups Is Fun.** It will quickly become the highlight of your week

**9. Learn Great Songs.** We sing music from all different styles for all different seasons of the church year.

**8. Make Connections.** A singing group is a perfect place to meet a diverse group of people from many walks of life. We pray together, we party together... Friendships happen!

**7. Physical Wellbeing.** Your body has to work at singing. It can be a big part of a healthy lifestyle

**6. Boost in Confidence.** Being in a community of confident faith-filled people further drives us to succeed and do our best.

**5. Keep Your Music Skills Sharp or learn them.** There is no better way to learn about music, and it's FREE!

**4. Improve Your Singing.** If you sing regularly, you get better at it.

**3. It Feels Amazing.** We create beauty every week. It's satisfying and gives us a great sense of belonging.

**2. God gave you a good voice or the ability to play an instrument well.** It's time to share that gift with us all at St. Matthias. You'll be happy, we'll be

happy and God will be so happy, trust me!

**1. You come to the 5:00 Mass every week anyway-** why not experience worship in a completely new way?

The St. Matthias Folk Group rehearses on Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00 PM and meets for Saturday 5:00 Mass at 4:30PM. Our first rehearsal of the year will be on September 20, 2023.

We do our best to accommodate busy schedules, family obligations and work commitments. We rehearse music well in advance to give our members ample time to learn new repertoire.

To register, call or email Music Director Joan Best Seamon, 732-828-1400, ext.107; [jseamon@stmatthias.net](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net).

## Welcome Reception for Sr. Mary Vertucci

These photos are from the welcoming reception of Sr. Mary Vertucci held after the 10 AM Mass on **Sunday, September 3rd**. Sr. Mary gave an update of happenings at Emusoi Centre in Tanzania since 1999.

After a delicious brunch Sr. Mary continued with the overview of life at Emusoi- sharing news and some success stories. Donation opportunities are still available. Checks may be sent to the parish office. Please make checks payable to **Maryknoll Sisters**, New York with "Emusoi Center" on the memo line or include a note designating the donation for Emusoi Center, c/o Sr. Mary Vertucci. Unless otherwise noted on your check, contributions will be used where most needed.



## Learn



The Society of St Vincent de Paul at Matthias has had a very busy Summer. Over the past months, we and our neighboring SVDP Conferences have experienced the end-of-pandemic flood of people in need now that government benefits have dried up and the effects of inflation have hit. Our fiscal year ends on September 30, 2023, and to-date our St Matthias Conference has assisted 62 households with housing grants totaling more than \$100,000.00! This has been made possible in part by the generosity of our parish family, for which we are very grateful. The need continues to grow, and we ask that you pray for us in our ministry to our neighbors in need and consider committing to a regular contribution to the Society. For more information, please see our website at [www.SVDPATSM.ORG/TO-DONATE](http://www.SVDPATSM.ORG/TO-DONATE)

### Registration for all Faith Formation is now OPEN!

2023-2024 **GIFT** for

K-8 Religious Formation

[www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/](http://www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/)

First Eucharist Preparation 2023-2024

[www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/](http://www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/)

Confirmation Preparation 2023-2024

[www.stmatthias.net/confirmation/](http://www.stmatthias.net/confirmation/)

## 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@stmatthias.net](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net).

ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL HSA

# FALL MUM SALE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th

8" POTTED MUMS IN YOUR CHOICE OF COLORS

BRONZE | PURPLE | ORANGE | PINK | RED | WHITE | YELLOW

**\$10 EACH or 3 for \$25**

PICK UP AT ST. MATTHIAS PARKING LOT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7th 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

SEPT 30th @ 6 PM

SMS HSA'S

# Oktoberfest

ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL'S CAFETERIA

DRINK • FOOD • MUSIC • FUN

\$20 ADMISSION • BYOB • HACKERSHOP KEG • SNACKS/FOOD INCLUDED



## 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](http://www.stmatthias.net/tree)

### PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE Diocesan Informative Day for Black Catholics September 23, 2023 Hosted by St. Matthias

Black Catholics, now is the time to come together, to work and evangelize! Be part of the process and participate in the Diocesan Informative Day on

**Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**at the St. Matthias, St. John XXIII Room**  
**168 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Somerset, N.J.**

A video: Answering The Call to Thrive: *The Legacy of the National Black Catholic Congress* will be viewed and the 4 representatives of the Diocese who attended the NBCC will share their experiences to motivate each of us to work and promote the Pastoral Plan at both a Diocesan and a Parish level. To register please email:

[amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org) or call 732-562-1543.

And if you forget to register, you are still welcome to join us on September 23rd in the St. John XXIII Room.

Sr. Miriam Perez - Director, Office of Multicultural Ministries, Diocese of Metuchen - [mperez@diometuchen.org](mailto:mperez@diometuchen.org)

## Serve



### Next Morning of Service

The next Morning of Service will be held on Saturday, September 23rd. If you are interested in volunteering that morning, please email John and Coleen Zdziarski at [jzdzarski@comcast.net](mailto: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.
2. Pregnancy Aid Center - 59 Thompson Street in Raritan - sorting children's clothing. Limited to eight people.

### 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, Tuesdays, Nov. 2, Dec 6 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](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)

### SENIOR MINISTRY MEETING

All Seniors are invited to gather in the cafeteria-Saturday, October 7, at 10:00 AM

A light breakfast will be available, followed by prayer: **“A Reflection on Autumn Days”**, **reading and discussion of Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister's: Blessings of Aging, and future events.**

**Also, please sign up for the bus trip to Lancaster to see “Sight and Sound, Daniel, Live on Stage” as soon as possible... see bulletin or website for details...**

**If you plan to attend our Senior Meeting, please contact:** Sr. Marie Therese, [msherwood@stmatthias.net](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)



**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.

**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 - September 3, 2023	\$10,492.00	\$13,772.25	<b>\$24,264.25</b>	\$25,148.37
Week 11 - September 10, 2023	\$7,215.31	\$24,373.75	<b>\$31,589.06</b>	\$41,228.22
Week 12 - September 17, 2023			<b>\$0.00</b>	\$21,587.45
Week 13 - September 24, 2023			<b>\$0.00</b>	\$19,659.25
			<b>Month-to-date</b>	<b>September Total Last</b>
<b>Peter's Pence Collection: \$2,701.68</b>			<b>\$55,853.31</b>	\$107,623.29
			<b>Current Year-to-</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of Sep</b>
			<b>\$1,658,076.64</b>	\$1,652,703.23

**Stewardship Reflection September 17, 2023  
 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." - Romans 14:8*

This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He is calling you to the live the life that He intended for you.

**Reflexiónese 17 de septiembre de 2023  
 Domingo 24º del Tiempo Ordinario**

*"Si vivimos, para el Señor vivimos; y si morimos, para el Señor morimos. De manera que, tanto en la vida como en la muerte, pertenecemos al Señor."- Romanos 14:8*

Esa es la esencia de la corresponsabilidad - todo lo que tenemos y todo lo que somos es un don de Dios. No somos los "dueños" de nada, somos simplemente "administradores" de los dones que Dios nos ha dado, especialmente en nuestras propias vidas. Ore al Señor, diariamente, y pregúntele como lo llama a vivir la vida que Él ha destinado para usted.

**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-Mellini 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](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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