



**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-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

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024**  
 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



The New Jersey  
 Mass and March for Life,  
 will take place in Trenton on

Thursday, September 26, details on page 7

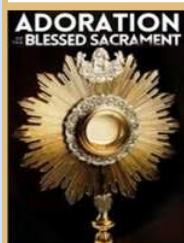
**FESTIVAL OF FILIPINO SAINTS**

The Diocese of Metuchen Filipino Apostolate cordially  
 invites everyone to celebrate the  
 Festival of Filipino Saints here at

**St. Matthias Church, this Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

*All Are Welcome!*

More 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 23, 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 22, 2024

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass Sign Language Interpreter	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church

### Monday, Sept 23, 2024 **Padre Pio, Priest, Mystic & Stigmatist**

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

### Tuesday, Sept 24, 2024 **Martyrs of Chalcedon**

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

### Wednesday, Sept 25, 2024 **BL. Herman of Reichenau, Monk**

8:00AM	Mass St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Group	de Porres Room
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

### Thursday, Sept 26, 2024 **Sts. Cosmos & Damian, Martyrs**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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 27, 2024 **St. Vincent de Paul, Priest & Founder**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	Mass St. Lorenzo Ruiz Feast	Church

### Saturday, Sept 28, 2024 **St. Lorenzo Ruiz & Co., Martyrs**

**All Day- Woman's Day of Reflection, Bethlehem Senior Ministry**

10:00AM	Mum Plants Pick-Up	Parking lot near playground
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
4:00PM	Racial Justice Initiative	Movie Night John XXIII Rm
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

### Sunday, Sept 29, 2024

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	Cafeteria
12:00PM	Mass	Church

#### Bulletin Article Requests:

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

In his book **"True Self, False Self,"** Basil Pennington presents us with one of the greatest tasks of our lives: coming to a true knowledge of ourselves. While we often define ourselves by our achievements, or the successes of our families, it is far more difficult to understand our true selves—who we are at the core, beyond the superficial layers of identity.

Throughout literature, we find characters wrestling with their identity,

1. Shakespeare's Hamlet laments:  
*"What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason, how infinite in faculties... and yet, to me, what is this quintessence of dust?"*
2. In Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, Estella admits:  
*"I am what you have made me."*
3. Elizabeth Gilbert, in her memoir *Eat, Pray, Love*, describes her personal crisis:  
*"I don't know how to be here. I don't know how to live in this world anymore."* This is a striking confession of her disorientation, as she embarks on a journey to reconnect with herself, realizing that she has lost touch with who she truly is.

**This past weekend's Gospel** also challenges us to reflect on our knowledge of Jesus, which is intrinsically linked to our self-awareness. Jesus was often misunderstood—even by His closest followers. When Philip asked to see the Father, Jesus responded:

*"Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time?"* (John 14:9).

#### Jesus' Confrontation of Our False Self:

Jesus continually confronts us, urging us to move beyond the false self—the self that is preoccupied with personal gain, security, and social image. His teachings challenge our assumptions about life and force us to confront deeper truths:

#### Self-Centeredness:

Jesus challenges us to break free from a life centered on self interest. The false self thrives on selfish ambition, but Jesus calls us to love others, sacrifice, and live for a higher purpose.

#### A Personal Reflection:

As I reflect on these lessons, I am confronted by the reality that, while there are many tasks to accomplish during our time on earth, one of the most essential is to come to know both God and ourselves. Personally, I would be deeply saddened to reach the end of my life only to realize that I had lived more for myself and my needs than in my relationship with God. To miss this opportunity for deeper connection and true self-awareness would be a great loss.

St. Augustine's *"Late have I loved you, O Lord, late have I loved you. You were within me, but I was outside."*

Fr. Lance

## Readings for the Week

**Monday** Prv 3:27-34 Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5 Lk 8:16-18

**Tuesday** Prv 21:1-6, 10-13 Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44 Lk 8:19-21

**Wednesday** Prv 30:5-9 Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163 Lk 9:1-6

**Thursday** Eccl 1:2-11 Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17BC Lk 9:7-9

**Friday** Eccl 3:1-11 Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4 Lk 9:18-22

**Saturday** Eccl 11:9-12:8 Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17 Lk 9:43b-45

**Sunday** Nm 11:25-29 Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 Jas 5:1-6 Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48



## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, September 21</b>	5:00PM	Jennifer Brown, by Mom & Dad
<b>Sunday, September 22</b>	8:00AM	Bill Dolphin, by St. Vincent DePaul Society
	10:00AM	Frank Fischer, by Family
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Monday, September 23</b>	8:00AM	Helen Cozzarelli, by George & Nancy Stanek
<b>Tuesday, September 24</b>	8:00AM	Barbara Butler, by Vinnie, Ethel & Mary
<b>Wednesday, September 25</b>	8:00AM	Norman Siebenlist, by Eileen Siebenlist
<b>Thursday, September 26</b>	8:00AM	Lillian Bartlett, by William
<b>Friday, September 27</b>	8:00AM	Elmer Natale, by Vinnie
<b>Saturday, September 28</b>	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
	5:00PM	Claudia Gemgnani, by St. Matthias Music Ministry
<b>Sunday, September 29</b>	8:00AM	William & Mary Wallace, by Eugene & Maryann Gessner
	10:00AM	Alexander James & Frederick Yearwood, by Judith James
	10:00AM	Mary Barrood, by The Barrood Family
	12:00PM	Francis R. & Florence S. Lyons, by Daughter Florence Francis

## 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.**

### Edgar Banaag

Carolyn Banghart  
Ghislaine Baron  
Samantha Bellouny  
Mary Bostrom  
Tara Capatosto  
Rustico Castellano  
Zenon DeGuzman  
Sanora Doyen  
Andrea Dubuisson  
Hattie Evans  
Margaret Ann Cichon  
Ford  
Sharon Gadomski  
Heinley Gaspard  
Emma Gergely

Claude Godet  
Marie Godet  
Shelly Greene  
Linda Hartong  
Jeff Hentz  
Marilyn Horvath  
Jerry & Donna Hucul  
**Marilyn Jensen**  
Jean Alix Jolly  
Renée Jolly  
Donna Kahora  
Betsy Kondrat  
Kathy Langenbacher  
Rose Larangeira  
Armando D. Liban  
Mary Lou Litrakis

Aries Magali  
Kenneth & Kelly  
Magat  
Susan, King & Tosh  
Manansala  
**Colleen Maniscalco**  
Alexandra Marquez  
Christine Matthews  
Ann McElwee  
Jessica Marie Merrick  
Gail Miranda  
Menchie Molano-  
Sotelo  
Sarah Braun Morini  
Robert Pellegrino  
Robert Pietrowiak

Randolff Pinard  
Valerie Polci  
Kim Price  
Frank Rispoli  
Anne Ritchik  
Gabriel Rivera  
Bob Rotz  
Marisa Ruppel  
Maria Schwenzer  
Amy Shepp  
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF  
Timothy Siclari  
Catherine Steele  
Sr. Bernadine Marie  
Stemnock  
Richard Sury

Jacqueline Taylor  
Anita Vance  
**Minda Villarica**  
Eileen Weber  
Nancy Whelan  
Michael Zambri  
Ginette Zamor  
Anne Zando

**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

Rodolfo Banaag

Marius Moran



## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



While away from home in college I wrote a letter to my dad. It said: "No mon, no fun, your son." He wrote back saying: "Too bad, so sad, your dad." 😊

Teacher: What do you all aspire to become? Student 1: A Doctor! Student 2: An Engineer! Student 3: A Lawyer! Student 4: I just want to watch and see whether they'll become what they say they'll become." 😊

Two parents were talking one day and asked the other what their son was taking in college. The one replied, "He's taking every penny I have!" 😊

Back in my hippie college days, a professor came up to me in the cafeteria and asked me, "Ya dig?" I thought to myself, this guy's pretty far out. I answered, "Yeh, man. I dig!" That's how I got hoodwinked into joining his archaeological expedition. 😊

A college student in a philosophy class was taking his first examination. On the paper, there was a single line that simply said, "Is this a question? — Discuss." After a short time, he wrote, "If that is a question, then this is an answer." The student received an "A" on the exam. 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

The 4th Monday of September is national *Eat Dinner Together Day*. Maybe you always (or mostly) eat dinner together. Good. If so, talk about something like favorites (food, dessert, place, toy, vacation...) If not, eat together today or as often as possible this week.

### Marriage Tune-Up

"Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from" (James 4: 1) Couples fight about many different things - money, whose job it is to clean up, the kids... Identify your top gripe of today and decide to let it go. Is one day of peace too hard?



### A Pearl of Wisdom for this Week:

**Patience With Family is Love... Patience With Others is Respect.  
Patience With Self is Confidence. And Patience With GOD is Faith.**



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

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

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

Facilitators will be contacting group members who have been part of their group. Each group likely will be meeting either on Zoom or in person, usually on the same date/time. Groups will begin the week of **October 14**. New members, please sign-up by October 7. Most groups will be using the same resource.

In Small Faith Groups, there's always new insights we receive from the Scriptures. Insights that benefit us the rest of our lives. By studying the weekend Liturgy's readings with others who have similar needs, we discover that God is speaking to us directly. Then, the Mass itself becomes more meaningful, more alive!

### Why Join Small Groups?

**Small groups, in fact, are where much of the preaching points from our pulpits begins to be fleshed out in conversation and action.** The implications of the Biblical passages come alive when we hear how each member of the group shares his/her story of struggling to make sense of God's will in their own lives. The sharing of struggles and challenges, joys and triumphs provide a great mutual spiritual support.

**Small faith-sharing groups also meet a very practical and human need: the need to belong.** We are communal creatures: a community of love called the Trinity made us and because community is our origin, we will always find life and direction within a community better than we will on our own. That means small groups deliver deeper friendships that double as accountability. When people know you, really know you, your life becomes far more transparent, including your shortcomings and imperfections. Others learn to read you and call you out for those areas you wish to improve, creating opportunities to deal with real life difficulties as they surface. This is part of what we should expect from good friends.

**So, why not sign up if you have never tried this small group experience?**

## "Sam's Relief"

*"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be last and the servant of all." Mark 9: 30-37*

Sambonn Lek - known as "Sam" to his customers - is a bartender at Washington's St. Regis Hotel, just a few blocks from the White House. Sam is a Vietnam-era Cambodian refugee; at 66, he's been mixing drinks since the Carter administration. He's a favorite among the regulars: he remembers names and favorite cocktails, he arranges rides home when needed, and, in slow times, he entertains with a repertoire of magic tricks. However, his greatest act is the foundation he started, "Sam Relief." With the help of his affluent customers, he collects spare change and big checks and uses the money to aid the people of his native Cambodia. Since 2000, his nonprofit has built 27 schools, dug nearly 400 wells, delivered 290 tons of rice and awarded 120 scholarships.

Sam came to the United States in 1974. His father was a diplomat and the family fled Cambodia when the country fell to the communist Khmer Rouge. They first settled in France. Sam was among the lucky students offered refugee status to come to the United States. He studied at the University of the District of Columbia, but in need of money to continue, he landed his first bartending job at the landmark Mayflower Hotel. Four years later he married Nara Sok, a fellow Cambodian refugee he met at a friend's wedding. They went on to have two children. Sam became a U.S. citizen in 1980. In 1998, Sam's mother died, leaving him \$2,500. In keeping with Buddhist practice, he used the money to "buy rice for the poor people who don't have food. And clothing for children to attend school." Sam told a few patrons, who contributed, too, and "Sam Relief" was born.

In its early days, Sam would take the money to Cambodia on his vacation each summer, going into the villages and buy rice to make sure it got delivered. One of his patrons, an accountant, drew up the paperwork to set up the foundation. Washington is known more for power politics than humanitarian works. What inspires these movers and shakers to fork over thousands of dollars to a bartender with a story? One public relations lobbyist who has been supporting Sam's work for two decades, explains: "Despite what might be interpreted as a meanness in today's world, there's an impulse to help. We are all our brother's keepers. People like Sam remind us of that."

**Sambonn Lek personifies the ideal of "greatness" that Jesus speaks of in today's Gospel. Such greatness is found in the lives we touch, in the joy we bring into our world, in the holy and sacred we make real for family and friends. To put another's needs, hopes and dreams ahead of our own, to seek to bring forth and affirm the gifts of others for no other reason than the common good, to seek reconciliation no matter the cost is to be the Gospel "servant" in the spirit of Jesus.**

## Episcopal Careerism vs Child-like Innocence

Father John R. Donahue,  
([www.americamagazine.org](http://www.americamagazine.org)):

The Gospel reminds the Church today of the dangers of ambition and posturing for positions of power. In recent years, the genie of ecclesiastical ambition has again been let out of the bottle. So much so, that Cardinal Gantin, dean of the College of Cardinals and former prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, deplored episcopal careerism. He was shocked by bishops seeking promotion from smaller to larger dioceses (*America* 6/19/99), a view echoed two months later by Cardinal Ratzinger ... Yet the pilgrim Church of God's people continues the work of justice, and the unprotected and vulnerable are welcomed and protected. Jesus has many unnamed companions today as he follows the path of self-giving for others that leads through death to resurrection. Only humility exalts.

### Humility in Thoughts, Words and Actions!

*"Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart."*

"What is the essential thing in the religion and discipline of Jesus Christ?" St. Augustine asks, and then responds, "I shall reply: first humility, second humility and third humility." We should not seek recognition and recompense for the service we do for Christ and the Church as parents, teachers, pastors, etc. Trusting Faith resulting from true humility is essential for all corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Since children reflect the innocence, purity, simplicity and tenderness of our Lord, and since they are given the protection of a guardian angel, we are to love them, train them and take care not to give scandal to them. We need to try to treat everyone with love and respect because, "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life" (St. Basil), CCC # 336.



### The First shall be the Last!

The Greeks had a story of a Spartan called Paedaretos. Three hundred men were to be chosen to govern Sparta and Paedaretos was one of the candidates. When the list of the successful was announced his name was not on it. "I am sorry," said one of his friends, "that you were not elected. The people ought to have known what a wise officer of state you would have made." "I am glad," said Paedaretos, "that in Sparta there are three hundred men better than I am." Here was a man who became a legend because he was prepared to give to others the first place and to bear no ill will, as Jesus demands in today's Gospel.



## Persecution of the Just

Elie Wiesel, Jewish writer and Nobel Peace Prize winner tells a disturbing story in one of his books about Auschwitz. As soon as children arrived by train at Auschwitz, together with the elderly and the sick, they were immediately selected for the gas

chamber. On one occasion, a group of children was left to wait by themselves for the next day. A man asked the guards if he could stay with the children during their last night on earth. Surprisingly, his request was granted. How did they spend that last night? He started by telling them stories in an effort to cheer them up. However, instead of cheering them up, he only succeeded in making them cry. So, what did they do? They cried together until daybreak. Then he accompanied the little ones to the gas chamber. Afterwards he returned to the prison yard to report to work. When the guards saw him, they burst out laughing.

The story has most of the ingredients of our reading. In it, we see the brazenness of the evildoers, the persecution of the innocent, and the apparent triumph of evil, which is the subject of the first reading. The man's heroic act of service towards the little ones shines out in the darkness of Auschwitz. He risked his life to befriend the little ones. He had no answers to give them, no salvation to offer them.

All he could do was suffer with them and accompany them on their last journey. Though he was an ordinary person with no rank or status of any kind, he was undoubtedly the greatest person in that sad place on that sad occasion.

What made him great was his goodness.

## From Today's Scriptures

Following Christ is more than just having the right beliefs and knowing the truths of the faith. As this weekend's Gospel relates, to be a follower of Christ one must be a servant of all. Consider how we might act throughout the day if the foremost thought in our minds was to be a servant. What would be different about how you interact with others if you placed yourself in the role of being their servant? As a Christian, a hallmark of our faith is the way we love others. Being a servant to all is a concrete expression of that love.

### Questions for Consideration

**Gospel Question:** In what ways are you a servant to others?

**1st Reading Question:** Where do you see others testing God?

**2nd Reading Question:** What are some of your ambitions that may be blinding you?

## Is the Eucharist Revival Over?



The simple answer is **NO**. While the National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024—the first such national Eucharistic Congress in our country in 83 years—stands as a high point for the National Eucharistic Revival, it is by no means the conclusion of our Revival. The next phase of the Revival is **MISSION**. It invites us to

go out and share the love of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist to transform the world! This is possible only when we continue encountering our Lord in the Eucharist, to grow in relationship with him, to allow Jesus in the Eucharist to shape our identity, and to go out on mission with him for the life of the world!

To be a Eucharistic missionary, each of us practicing Catholics must take ownership of Eucharistic renewal of our country. However, it begins from where we are: in our personal life, in our family life and in our parish life. To this end, there is a new initiative for this mission year called "Walk with One"! This initiative is meant to challenge each of us to ask the Holy Spirit to show us one person whom we could accompany in and through these invitations.

## The Christian Criterion of Greatness!

Jesus says that people who serve humbly are the greatest. He uses a play on an Aramaic word that can mean either *servant* or *child*. Presenting a child before them, Jesus explains that one who wishes to be the first among them must be a *servant* to all. True greatness consists in serving one's fellow men and is never self-centered. It lies in the ability to see and respond to the needs of others, and it presupposes compassion and sympathy. The two conditions of true greatness are humility and service. This vocation to service belongs to the Church as a whole and to every member of the Church. In other words, the Christian vocation is an apostolate of bearing witness to Christ through loving, humble service. Christian history teaches us that whenever the members of Christ's Church have forgotten or ignored this call to service, the Church has suffered. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, gives us this motto on service: "Do all the good you can; By all the means you can; In all the ways you can; In all the places you can; At all the times you can; To all the people you can; As long as ever you can."



## Pray



### RCIA

We are very happy to announce that a good group of adults and teens have registered for the new class for RCIA (now renamed as OCIA). But you might know someone, in your families or friendship circles, who has not received the Sacrament of Holy Communion or Confirmation. Kindly ask them to contact our RCIA Coordinators:

Anne Marie Francis at [alfrancis.30@gmail.com](mailto:alfrancis.30@gmail.com) or Mary Frances Reavey at [mfreavey@gmail.com](mailto: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.



### August Baptisms

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in August. We support them with prayers and ask their parents to nurture them so they can grow to be faith-filled people of God and our parish community.

*Elias Lisandro Calbo*  
*Austin Raksa Young Chan*

*Kyler Raksmei Young Chan*  
*Ryan Ramsey Young Chan*

## Connect

**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)



### 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 **5 pm**, with the **Parade of Saints** at **4 pm**.

*All Are Welcome*



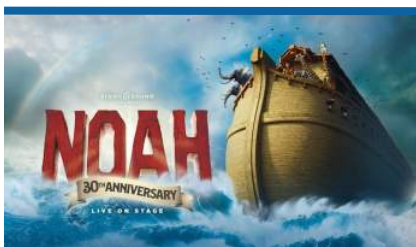
### NEW JERSEY MASS AND MARCH FOR LIFE

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.

### NOAH LIVE ON STAGE

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

More details, including how to purchase tickets, can be found at:  
[www.stmatthias.net/noah](http://www.stmatthias.net/noah)



## 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](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org) & **Tesha Barr** [tbarr@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto: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/>



**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)



### SERVICWORX – OUR YOUTH SHARE # 5

*Here's the sharing by a 5<sup>th</sup> young person Zacari Joelle Moreno, about her experience of the week of immersion and reflection.*

1) Tell us about one service site and what you did there.

One service site I went to was Somerset Cap. What I did there was help the workers take care of the infants with the everyday activities.

2) What did you most enjoy about your service and the reflection activities in the afternoon at St. Matthias?

I enjoyed working with other members in my service group the most. I liked how we went from strangers to friends. What I enjoyed in the reflection activities was that I would work with my group members to complete assignments and create skits of what we learned from the day.

3) What challenges did you face while participating in service?

The challenges I faced while participating in service was natural elements like the heat and communication difficulties with the elders and children.

4) What lessons have you learned from these various experiences?

The lessons I have learned from these various experiences were that everywhere you go there is a story that can be told, patience is something not everyone has in the beginning, and that you are not so different from the people around you.

5) How did you find the story of the Good Samaritan related to what you did during those five days of ServiceworX?

I found the story of the Good Samaritan relating to what I did during those five days of ServiceworX by me helping people that others wouldn't think of helping.

Generally, I had so much fun, and I learned a lot with my experiences.



## 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	<b>\$18,818.65</b>	\$24,264.25
Week 10 - September 8, 2024	\$10,227.00	\$24,470.00	<b>\$34,697.00</b>	\$31,589.06
Week 11 - September 15, 2024	\$10,452.00	\$15,767.50	<b>\$26,219.50</b>	\$24,225.00
Week 12 - September 22, 2024				\$18,885.75
Week 13 - September 29, 2024				
			Month-to-date Total	September Total Last Year
<b>Building R&amp;R collection: \$3,612.00</b>			<b>\$79,735.15</b>	\$98,964.06
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Sep 30, 2023
			<b>\$281,803.15</b>	\$219,735.06

## REMINDER!

When we contribute via check, the Chase Bank requires that the checks must be made out to the "**Church of St. Matthias.**" No other variation of this designation will be acceptable due to greater security controls.

### Stewardship Reflection September 22, 2024 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Mark 9:35*

Jesus teaches us that we are called to love one another. Love involves sacrifice. Sacrifice is a word that many of us don't like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want. However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is "to make holy," from the words "sacer" = sacred and "facere" = to make. In other words, when we sacrifice, we make our lives holy by sharing our gifts in the service of God.

### Reflexiónese - 22 de septiembre de 2024 Domingo 25<sup>o</sup> del Tiempo Ordinario

*"Si alguno quiere ser el primero, colóquese en último lugar y hágase servidor de todos." Marcos 9:35*

Jesús nos enseña que fuimos llamados a amarnos los unos a los otros. El amor implica sacrificio. Sacrificio es una palabra de las muchas que no nos gusta oír. Pensamos que significa que debemos renunciar a algo que queremos. Sin embargo, el significado literal de sacrificio es "santificar", viene de las palabras: "sacer", sagrado y "facere", hacer. En otras palabras, cuando sacrificamos algo, santificamos nuestras vidas al compartir nuestros dones en el servicio de Dios.

## SPECIAL REQUEST FOR EMUSOI CENTER



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

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

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

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

- Fran Johnson, for the Respect Life Ministry

# 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](http://www.SchoolSistersOsf.org/upcoming-events/virtues-of-women) or email Lauren Martin at [lmartin@schoolsistersosf.org](mailto:lmartin@schoolsistersosf.org)

## 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 and 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!**



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## 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](http://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 and mailed 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](mailto:champions@diometuchen.org) or by phone to 732-562-2432.

## Parish Leadership

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b>	<b>Co-Secretaries:</b>	<i>Sheila Tartaglia</i>	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b>	
<b>Co-Chairs:</b> Frank Rees <a href="mailto:Frees814@gmail.com">Frees814@gmail.com</a>	Stephen Busono <a href="mailto:sbusono@gmail.com">sbusono@gmail.com</a>	Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio	Kester Hector, Chair <b>Finance Council</b> <a href="mailto:@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a>	Cory Panlilio
Marilyn Wegg <a href="mailto:mcw-wam@comcast.net">mcw-wam@comcast.net</a>	Bill Isele <a href="mailto:t33sm@aol.com">t33sm@aol.com</a>	<b>Trustees:</b> 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](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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