



St. Matthias Parish Office:

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

Sat - 5 PM, Sun - 8, 10 AM & 12 noon
M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM
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 - 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**

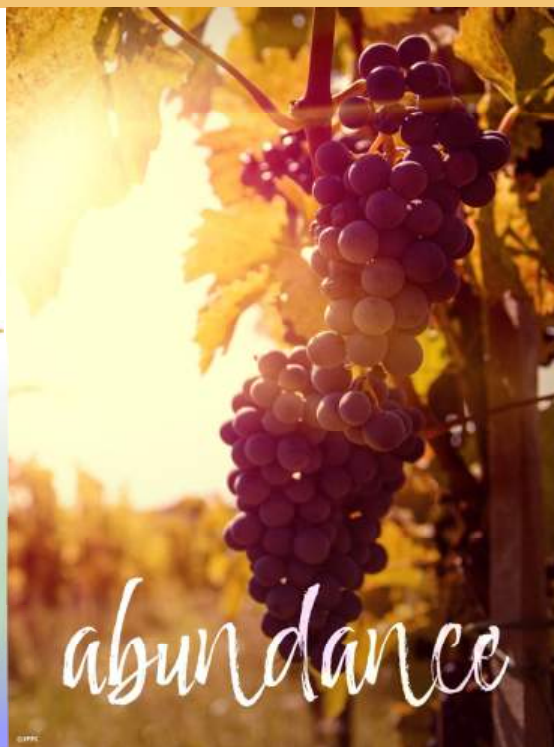
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Join a St. Matthias
Small Faith Group
Today!**

See page 9 for all details.



**Today's
2nd collection
is for our
St. Matthias School
Annual Fund**



WELCOME TO THE TEACHING MASS
On Sunday, October 1st at 12 Noon Mass
and/or
Tuesday, October 3, 6:30 PM in the Church

For more details please see page 7
All Are Welcome!



Blessing of
the Animals

**Next Sunday, October 1st, 2023 we
celebrate the Blessing of the Animals.**
Join us at 1:00PM in the parking lot,
after the 12PM Mass.

SAVE THE DATES!

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition October 28-29. (See page 6)
Eucharistic Presentation on October 18th (See page 7)



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME
QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.**
**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE THIS
MONDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 25TH**
FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

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

Sunday, Sep 24, 2023 Priesthood Sunday
 8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass, Sign Language Interpreter Church
 12:00PM Mass Church
 3:30PM SMYLE Youth Group Cafeteria

Monday, Sep 25, 2023 Blessed Herman of Reichenau, Monk
 8:00AM Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena Church
 6:00PM Eucharist Adoration Church

Tuesday, Sep 26, 2023 Sts. Cosmos & Damien, Martyrs
 8:00AM Mass Church
 7:30PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal Church
 7:30PM Social Justice Mtg. Zoom

Wednesday, Sep 27, 2023 St. Vincent de Paul, Priest & Founder of Vincentians
 8:00AM Mass—St. Joseph Novena Church
 9:30AM Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit de Porres Rm
 7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, Sep 28, 2023 St. Lorenzo Ruiz, 1st Filipino Saint
 8:00AM Mass Church
 3:30PM Children's Choir Rehearsal Gr. 3&4 Church
 4:00PM Children's choir Rehearsal Gr. 5-8 Church
 7:30PM Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday, Sep 29, 2023 Sts. Michael, Raphael & Gabriel, Archangels
 8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, Sep 30, 2023 St. Jerome, Hermit & Doctor
 10:00AM Boy Scout Event Outside
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 4:00PM Oktoberfest Cafeteria
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, Oct 1, 2023 School Annual Fund Collection
 8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM Rosary Altar Mtg. John XXIII Rm
 12:00PM Mass Church
 1:00PM Blessing of the Animals Outside
 2:00PM GIFT Church & St. John XXIII Rm

Bulletin Article Requests:

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

Dear Friends,

Do we need a “National Eat Dinner Together Day”? Well there is one, and that’s this Monday, September 25th! The fourth Monday in September has been declared “Family Day — a day to eat dinner with your children,” by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University. This is a national effort to promote family dinners as an effective way to reduce youth substance abuse and other risky behaviors, as research consistently finds that the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink, or use illegal drugs. For more ideas, visit their site: <https://casafamilyday.org/>



Nothing brings us together like eating together. Good food, great conversations, and loads of laughs—that’s what family dinners are made of. But in today’s culture, we all know that family dinner together has become an easy casualty. Grabbing dinner on the go can be bad for our wallets and our waistlines, but most importantly we miss the opportunity to bond and grow as a family.

Throughout the Bible, we see that mealtime was a time for being together and enjoying each other, and it was also a time for teaching and imparting wisdom. The Old Testament prophets often compared life in the new heavens and earth with the picture of a divine banqueting table (Isaiah. 25:6; 55:1–2). In the New Testament, we regularly find Jesus reclining “at table” during His earthly ministry, engaging with real people, furthering His kingdom work, fostering true community, demonstrating reconciliation with God, and building genuine fellowship among His disciples (Luke 5:29; 7:36; 11:37; 14:15). From Sarah hosting the angels to the Passover meal observance to Jesus changing water to wine for a wedding feast, there are so many biblical examples of mealtime fellowship. Jesus often compared the Kingdom of God to a banquet! Eating together was a big deal to Jesus because it was a chance to deepen friendships, welcome strangers and serve the poor. No wonder Jesus chose to be food for us in the Holy Eucharist, to be the best spiritual nourishment for us.

Parents will vouch for the formative value of eating together as this is a great opportunity to instill important values in the lives of children. Listen to what a young man remembers about his family’s practice of eating meals together: *“It was therapeutic: an excuse to talk, to reflect on the day, and on recent events. Our chats about the banal—of baseball and television—often led to discussions of the seriousness—of politics and death, of memories and loss. Eating together was a small act, and it required very little of us—45 minutes away from our usual, quotidian distractions—and yet it was invariably one of the happiest parts of my day.”*

Such is the formative value of eating together. If kids are not used to talking to you about their day at an earlier age of 8 or 9, we can’t expect them to do it at 12 or 13. Yes, let us make a greater effort to have family dinners more often.

Your brother in Christ,
 Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb:13:2, 3-4abefghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51

Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11 [1-5]; Mt 21:28-32



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Sep 23	5:00PM	Mary Dolan, by Vinnie & Ethel
Sunday, Sep 24	8:00AM	Frank Sciotto, by Wife & Children
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Health & Blessings for Nnenna & Kachi Nwanonyiri, by Kate Nwanonyiri
Monday, Sep 25	8:00AM	Norman Siebenlist, by Eileen
Tuesday, Sep 26	8:00AM	John Bendell, by Noel & Karen Villadolid
Wednesday, Sep 27	8:00AM	Elmer Natale, by Vinnie
Thursday, Sep 28	8:00AM	Brigid Brennan, by Helen Bell
Friday, Sep 29	8:00AM	Madeline Tarantino, by The Loring Family
Saturday, Sep 30	5:00PM	Reno Domnic, by Mercy Gabriel
Sunday, Oct 1	8:00AM	Angel & Merla Isabelo, by Reena Reyes
	10:00AM	Blessings for Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, by School Sisters of St. Francis
	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	Linda Hartong	Ivette Michel	Sr. Bernadine Marie
Tammy Baskaran	Marilyn Horvath	Gail Miranda	Stemnock
Barbara Butler	Baby Elaine Isele	Robert Pellegrino	Jeff Sullivan
Tara Capatosto	Amanda Isele	Randolff Pinard	Tom Szabo
Elizabeth Card	Bill Johnson	Valerie Polci	Mary Ann Vlaud
Kyle Davidson	Renée Jolly	Kim Price	Eileen Weber
Lisa DeFeo	Betsy Kondrat	Denise Pultro	Nancy Whelan
Zenon DeGuzman	Mary Lou Litrakis	Doris Regan	Anne Zando
Hattie Evans	John Litrakis	Gabriel Rivera	
Claudia Gemgnani	Carol Ann Loftus	Arina Robinson	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
Emma Gergely	Joseph Lubrano	Maria Schwenzer	
Gerry & Jack Gernert	Aries Magali	Amy Shepp	
Marie Godet	Al Maglio	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Manager to the job applicant: "So you will start at \$15 an hour and later you could earn at least \$20 an hour."

Applicant: "Alright then I'll be back later!" 😊

Employee: I'd like to be paid what I'm worth. **Employer:** And I'd like to pay you what you're worth, but I can't because there are minimum wage laws. 😊

Corporations never actually mention 'money' because that would be vulgar. They prefer words like 'turnover,' 'profit,' 'revenue,' 'budget,' 'premium,' and 'savings,' all much more refined. 😊

Letter to God:

Dear God, you can go ahead and destroy this world on any other day but please not on my salary day! 😊

Letter to Boss:

Dear Boss, In this life, we all need one thing most

desperately. I think you should be understanding of the needs of us workers who have given so much support including sweat service to your company. I'm sure you will guess what I mean and respond soon. Yours sincerely, Stevenson 😊

I am confident I love salary day more than Romeo loved Juliet! 😊

Oh, salary! I've waited for you for one month, please don't leave in one hour. 😊

I told my boss that three companies were after me and I needed a raise to stay at my job. We haggled for a few minutes and he gave me a 5 % raise. Leaving his office, he stopped and asked me, "By the way, which companies are after you?" I responded, "The gas, electric and cable company." 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

This Monday (September 25) is National Eat Dinner Together Day (<https://www.informedfamilies.org/campaigns/family-day>). Maybe your family always eats dinner together. If not, make a special effort to eat together on this day. Tell stories of your day. What was the high? What was the low?

Marriage Tune-Up



What is fair? In marriage sometimes one partner gives more than the other (makes more money, does more chores - especially the unwanted ones, etc.) Recently I broke my arm and my husband did everything for me. When has your beloved carried the bigger part of life's burdens for you?

Yeah, Life is Unfair...!

The parable of the generous vineyard owner: "Are you envious because I am generous? Thus the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20: 1-16a

You've been working for this landscaper for five summers now. You're going back to school in a few weeks and you've asked for extra hours. The owner assures you he will do what he can. But one day a new guy shows up and starts work - and the possibility of your working extra hours is out. "Guy's wife just got laid off," your boss says, introducing him. "I'm trying to help him and his family by taking him on for a few hours a week." So much for loyalty, you think.

The task of taking care of your elderly parent falls pretty much on you. Your brothers and sisters live a distance away. They all call from time to time to see how Mom is doing and express their concern, but none of them is in any position to provide the necessary day-to-day help. "They all have problems of their own," Mom says, "I just thank God for you." Then she dies and they all show up, grieving as if they've been there all along. And of course, Mom's estate is

divided equally "because I love all my children just the same" - even though it's your life that's been turned upside down and you've borne the costs of caring for her. Though you would never say it, you seethe: *It's not fair.* Moreover, you're right.

You're filling out the financial aid forms for your child's college application. In the process, you discover that you're eligible only for so much assistance because, to put it bluntly, you make too much money. *You've got to be kidding,* you sigh, wondering how you missed the European vacations, the heated pool and the polo ponies that the form says you apparently could afford.

You've always played by the rules. You pay your bills. You go without so that your family has what they need. Yet your taxes go to bail out those who mess up, who can't provide for their families because of their irresponsibility. Or you're asked again to contribute to help someone far away when there is a real need right here. There always seems to be someone cutting in front of your place in line.

(Continued)

Reflect

Yeah, Life is Unfair...! (continued)

Today's Gospel can be hard to accept. God's generosity strikes us as "unfair." We begrudge God's "extravagant," almost irresponsible mercy. But the parable of the generous vineyard owner exposes our tendency to evaluate everything through the lens of money: we track our paystubs, our investments, our Starbucks rewards. As wage earners, we seek fairness. But notice what's missing in Jesus' story: grace. While we're pursuing fairness, God bestows grace in the form of generosity and understanding and second-chances to the point of, in our estimation, pointless extravagance. Discipleship is to trust in the goodness of God despite our judgement of what is "fair" and "just." To trust in the mercy of God enables us to appreciate all that we have received and how much God has blessed us, compelling us to experience the joy of sharing all that we have been given with those who have not realized such blessings in their lives. .



Are Deathbed Conversions Fair...??!

Conversions at the point of death have a long history. The first recorded deathbed conversion appears in the **Gospel of Luke** where the good thief, crucified beside Jesus, expresses belief in Christ. Jesus accepts his conversion, saying, *"Today you shall be with me in Paradise."* Perhaps the most momentous

conversion in Western history was that of **Constantine I, Roman Emperor**, later proclaimed a Christian **Saint**. While his belief in Christianity occurred long before his death, it was only in 337 on his deathbed that he was **baptized**. A famous literary genius who entered the Church at the final moment was Oscar Wilde. He had written plays like *"The Importance of Being Ernest"* and novels, such as *"The Picture of Dorian Gray."* Wilde lived a notorious lifestyle. He did things that scandalized, even repulsed, his contemporaries. What most do not know, however, is that at the end of life he converted to Catholicism! On his deathbed, Oscar Wilde asked for and received baptism and anointing of the sick from Fr. Cuthbert Dunne. But he was unable to receive the Eucharist.

As in today's parable, he entered the vineyard - the Church - at the last hour. While Wilde's conversion may have come as a surprise, he had long maintained an interest in the Catholic Church, having met with Pope Pius IX in 1877. He described the Roman Catholic Church, as "for saints and sinners alone - for respectable people, the Anglican Church will do." Some might consider this type of eleventh hour, deathbed conversion unfair. They might feel like the workers who started working early and received equal wage with the latecomers.

"Father, no sermons on smoking, drinking or gambling!"

A young priest with a lot of zeal began his pastoral life as the associate pastor at a parish in the hills of Kentucky. On the first Sunday, he preached on the evils of smoking. After Mass, some of the parish leaders met him at the door: "We're a little surprised that you would deal with the subject of smoking because nearly half of the state of Kentucky raises tobacco. You might want to think twice about talking about tobacco in our church." The priest thanked them for enlightening him. The next Sunday he came back and preached with additional fervor against liquor and its evils. The same group met him at the door after the Holy Mass. They said: "We think we need to tell you that you ought to be careful about preaching against alcoholic beverages, especially since nearly a third of our county distills whiskey." "I didn't know that," the young priest replied. "Thank you for helping me." The next Sunday he preached a stirring sermon on gambling, especially on horse races. The same group met him after the Mass: "We think we need to tell you that over half of our county raises thoroughbred racehorses, so you want to be real careful about talking about gambling from the pulpit." Being a quick learner, the next Sunday, based on the gospel text of Peter's attempt to walk on water, the young priest preached against the evils of scuba diving in international waters! Nobody was offended as it did not concern any of them.

Obviously, this young priest took the easy way out by compromising with evil. But this is not what we, as Christians, are called to do, as Jesus demonstrates in the parable of the workers in the vineyard in today's Gospel. He tells the Jews that, although they are the first-comers in God's vineyard as God's chosen race, the latecomers, like his Gentile disciples, are going to inherit the same kingdom of God, which they had thought was "reserved" for themselves. The result of this parable was to turn their lives upside down. Ultimately, this is why Jesus was crucified.... because he said things that made people uncomfortable about compromising with evil.



Whoever said life was fair?

A million dollar golf tournament was held which drew contestants from near and far. Many experienced golfers who had worked for years and years on their game came for their shot at the jackpot. The winner would be the closest to the pin. Golfer after golfer tried for the hole, and one skilled veteran made it within six inches. Not too shabby. Then he watched as a certain that hacker came to the tee, and swung the

(continued).

Reflect

Whoever said life was fair? (continued)

most horrible looking swing that he had ever seen. However, luck was with this amateur. His ball bounced off a nearby photographers' cart and landed just one inch from the hole. He won the contest. He won the money. Who ever said life was fair? There is an old farmer's saying about people who just stumble into good luck without working hard – "The dumber the farmer, the bigger the spuds". It's another way of saying, life is not fair.

Even when life may not look fair to us, can we express our gratitude to God in our daily lives? God personally calls each of us to Himself and shows us his care by giving us His grace and eternal salvation. To God, we are more than just numbers on a payroll. Our call to God's vineyard is a free gift from God for which we can never be sufficiently thankful. God freely gives all our talents and blessings. We need to avoid the temptation to consider what we have is paltry in comparison to what others have. Hence, we should express our gratitude to God by avoiding sins, by rendering loving service to others, by sharing our blessings with the needy, and by constant prayer, listening and talking to God at all times.



The Little flower and the Criminal

St. Thérèse of Lisieux tells about a criminal being executed who stubbornly rejected all offers of spiritual help from the prison chaplain. She was concerned about him, and she became determined, in prayer, to obtain some change of heart before he died. An extraordinary thing happened that had a profound effect on her understanding of God's love and mercy. Just before he was blindfolded, and placed beneath the guillotine, he snatched the crucifix from the chaplain's hands, and kissed it reverently. He continued to clutch it, as he was put into position, and the blade fell. It is never too late for God.

We need to follow God's example and show grace to our neighbor. Jesus taught us the parable of the shepherd who went in search of the one sheep that was lost until it was found. St. Therese did exactly that as she prayed for that criminal. She focused on his original goodness and the salvation of his soul. Can we give the benefit of doubt to others in these following situations? When someone else is more successful than we are, let us assume he needs it. When someone who does wrong fails to be caught, let us remember the many times we have done wrong and gotten off free. We must not wish pain on people for the sake of fairness. We become envious of others because of our lack of generosity of heart. Envy should have no place in our lives. We cannot control the way God blesses others.

Generosity of a Lottery Winner!

Allen and Violet Large, a loving elderly couple from Nova Scotia, Canada, won \$11.2 million in the lottery. Instead of living happily ever after in luxury, they decided to give their winnings away. Being content with their average, peaceful lifestyle, they decided that the money would bring them unnecessary stress. They helped their family with some of the money and then divided the rest of the money between churches, organizations fighting cancer, Alzheimer's and diabetes, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, cemeteries, hospitals, also their local fire department. Their neighbors found difficult to understand them. They could never imagine such an act of generous giving. However, the couple was disturbed and thought that, were they not free to use their own gifts as they wanted!

Today's parable teaches us about the generosity of God. We need to practice generosity: We can be generous in the way we give a person encouragement and a kind word when they are feeling down even though that person might not be one of our best buddies. We can be generous in the way we give of our time to help someone going through a rough patch. When someone says something that offends us we can be generous in our reaction and sympathize, understand and appreciate what has made the person respond in the way they have rather than give back as good as we had given to us. When we have fallen out with someone or believe we have been unfairly treated we can be generous in our willingness to reach out and make amends and restore friendships. When someone really annoys us and gets under our skin we can be generous with our patience and kindness and deal with that person in a way that reflects the generous nature of God. When we see people who lack the bare necessities needed for a happy and healthy life we need to be generous with what we have been given by our generous God.



Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

The Eucharistic Miracles Display is a museum-like exhibition featuring the Eucharistic Miracles as chronicled by Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006). Blessed Carlo was a teenager from Italy who developed a website dedicated to the documented and scientifically scrutinized occasions when the Holy Eucharist changed in its physical appearance, reminding us that the bread and wine of the Mass truly become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This Exhibit will be set up in the cafeteria here at St. Matthias on the weekend of this month: October 28-29. Everyone is invited to visit this unique exhibition after every Mass.



A TEACHING MASS IS COMING TO ST. MATTHIAS: Sunday, October 1st at 12 Noon Mass!

Catholic Mass is filled with many rituals and prayers. Often we do not know the meaning of these or why we have them in the Mass. Understanding the why of these will help us to *experience the God who comes to us as our nourishment.*

The Eucharistic Revival sponsored by the U.S. Bishops and our parish gives us a fresh opportunity to help us better understand the Mass so we can participate more fully and better appreciate what we do when we gather to pray together in this way.

We invite you try to attend our “Family Focused” Teaching Mass on **October 1st**, coordinated by our parish GIFT leadership team with Fr. Abraham!



TODAY IS PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY!

Thomas Merton once said: “For each one of us there is only one thing necessary: to fulfill our own destiny according to God’s will, to be what God wants us to be... to make vocational choices that are pleasing to God and aligned with God’s will for us.” Indeed, each and every one of us is called to Christian vocation. Broadly speaking, we are all called to a “common” vocation by way of our baptism – a vocation to holiness and to the mission of evangelizing in the world. However, we may also be called to a more particular vocation – a specific role and purpose that allows us to “pay forward” God’s love to those we encounter in the circumstances of our daily lives. In the secular sphere, this vocation might manifest itself in our role as spouse or parent, in lay ministry efforts, in charitable and volunteer work, or in our professional

careers. In the religious sphere, every day men and women are being consecrated and “set apart” for particular vocations, the priesthood being one. Catholic priests are called to a very particular and special vocation, one that is graced with sacred authority and power, and that shares in the mission entrusted to the very first apostles – to build up the church and the people of God.

Today we celebrate Priesthood Sunday and the priestly vocations of Father Abraham and Father Lancelot. Let us offer prayers for Father Abraham and Father Lancelot as they continue their priestly duties in service to God and us. Let us also pray for ourselves that God might allow us to discern our own vocations so that we also can serve each other and God. For more on the Saint Matthias Vocations Ministry please contact **Joe Percoco** at percoco@rutgers.edu

All Health and Mental Health Care Professionals


Save The Date

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22ND
12PM MASS
ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH
170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873

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

“Where the needs of the world and your talents cross, there lies your vocation.”



EUCCHARISTIC PRESENTATION SERIES

One of the goals of the Eucharistic Revival is to have a ‘robust formation’ to understand the meaning of the Holy Eucharist. For this purpose, our Eucharistic Revival Committee is organizing a series of presentations on the Holy Eucharist. The first of these is scheduled for October 18th, Wednesday 7 p.m. Please save the date. More information will be coming soon.

FR. JOE IS INVITING YOUNG ADULTS TO “FAITH ON TAP SESSION!”



Fr. Joe (Msgr. Curry) is inviting any young adult who wishes to join other young adults (21+) in his parish for a “Faith on Tap” session. It will be this **Thursday, September 28 - 7:30 PM** in the Holy Spirit Hall at Mary Mother of God (MMoG) in Hillsborough. The discussion topic is, “Confession: What is it and why go?” Most welcome just to show up! You can follow them on Instagram [@mmog.youngadults](https://www.instagram.com/mmog.youngadults). Their hope is that Instagram will be an easier way to keep people connected and informed about upcoming events!

Learn

Registration for all 2023-2024 Faith Formation is now OPEN!

GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation

www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/

First Eucharist Preparation 2023-2024

www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/

Confirmation Preparation 2023-2024

www.stmatthias.net/confirmation/



LAZARUS MINISTRY MEETING

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

Date: Thursday, October 12th

Time: 10:00 - 11:30 am

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

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

Connect



SAINT MATTHIAS SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER

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

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

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 • HACKERSHOR 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

Join a St. Matthias Small Faith Group Today



Make **Fall Into Faith 2023** the **Best Season of the Year!**

Start for the **first time** or continue with a **St. Matthias Small Faith Sharing Group!**

We have about **15 groups** that meet on various **days/times of the week.**

If you are **new** to this experience, please sign up <https://forms.gle/fGjZMhRL6VnQjdXg8>

Facilitators will be contacting group members who have been part of their group. Each group likely will be meeting either on Zoom or in person usually on the same date/time. Groups will begin the week of **October 15!** **New members, please sign-up by October 7!** Most groups will be using the same resource.

Connect



Part-Time Administrative Assistant Needed

St. Matthias Church is looking for a part-time administrative assistant with management experience.

Responsibilities will include but not limited to:

- *Assist with the day to day operation of the parish. *Maintain the parish calendar and schedule events.
- *Serve as the point of contact for funerals and weddings. *Work with maintenance supervisor ordering parts, supplies, and scheduling appointments. *Maintain office inventory and complete other general office duties.
- *Must be proficient in MS Office. *Excellent office and inter personal skills.
- * Good communication skills, both in person and on the phone a must.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

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

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

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



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	\$24,264.25	\$25,148.37
Week 11 - September 10, 2023	\$7,215.31	\$24,373.75	\$31,589.06	\$41,228.22
Week 12 - September 17, 2023	\$12,399.75	\$11,825.25	\$24,225.00	\$21,587.45
Week 13 - September 24, 2023			\$0.00	\$19,659.25
			Month-to-date Total	September Total
			\$80,078.31	\$107,623.29
			Current Year-to-	Year-to-date as of
			\$1,682,301.64	\$1,652,703.23

**Stewardship Reflection September 24, 2023
 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last”.-
 Matthew 20:16*

You’ve heard the saying “it’s not where you start, but how you finish.” This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our sincere gratitude and cheerful generosity will help us live “God-centered” lives and not “self-centered” lives.

**Reflexiónese 24 de septiembre de 2023
 Domingo 25º del Tiempo Ordinario**

“Entonces, los últimos serán los primeros, y los primeros serán los últimos.” - Mateo 20:16

Seguramente ha escuchado el dicho “no se trata de dónde empiezas, sino de cómo terminas”. Esto ciertamente se aplica a este pasaje de la Biblia. No solo somos responsables de nuestras vidas, sino también de las vidas de otras personas. Somos llamados a compartir nuestros dones con generosidad, no a acumularlos para nuestro propio uso. Nuestra gratitud sincera y nuestra alegre generosidad nos llevará a vivir una Vida “centrada en Dios” y no una vida “egocéntrica”.

Parish Leadership

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

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

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

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

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



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



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