



**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 7:45AM to 3:30PM

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, **lg Guillen**  
 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 29, 2024**  
 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Join Us  
 For  
 First  
 Friday  
 Holy  
 Hour  
 following  
 the  
 8:00 AM  
 Mass on  
 October 4**



**For whoever  
 is not against  
 us is for us.**

**SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY  
 FOR THE EMUSOI CENTER**



See page 8 for details.

**The blessing of our beloved pets will take place  
 next Sunday, October 6, at 1:00 PM,  
 after the Noon Mass, in the parking lot.**



**All pets & owners are welcome.  
 Dogs must be leashed and smaller animals  
 must be in appropriate carriers.**



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME  
 QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.  
 OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING,  
 SEPTEMBER 30, 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 29, 2024**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	Cafeteria
12:00PM	Mass	Church
4:00PM	SMYLE Youth Group	Cafeteria

**Monday, Sept 30, 2024 Jerome, Hermit & Doctor of the Church**

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

**Tuesday, Oct 1, 2024 St. Teresa of the Child Jesus**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	40th Day Mass for Danny	Church
7:30PM	SVDP Mtg.	de Porres Rm

**Wednesday, Oct 2, 2024 The Guardian Angels**

8:00AM	Mass	St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Group		de Porres Rm
2:00PM	Bereavement Gathering		de Porres Rm

**Thursday, Oct 3, 2024 St. Theodora Guerin, Foundress**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	Children's Choir, Gr. 3&4	Church
4:00PM	Children's Choir Gr. 5-8	Church
7:00PM	Knights of Columbus Mtg.	Cafeteria
7:00PM	Catholic Social Teaching	John XXIII Rm
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

**Friday, Oct 4, 2024 St. Francis of Assisi, Stigmatist & Founder**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	1st Friday Holy Hour	Church
10:30AM	Mass at Spring Hill	(to be confirmed)

**Saturday, Oct 5, 2024 Maria Faustina, Apostle of Divine Mercy**

**School Annual Fund Collection**

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

**Sunday, Oct 6, 2024 School Annual Fund Collection**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	Cafeteria
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Society Mtg.	John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Blessing of the Animals	Parking Lot
2:00PM	GIFT	Church/John XXIII rm/Clrms

**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,**

This Tuesday we enter October, the Respect Life Month. We are a pro-life Church. This past Thursday (9/26/24) was the March for Life in Trenton, by thousands of young and old, giving peaceful, prayerful witness to the sanctity of human life. We know the Biblical teaching that life is a gift from God, and, hence, we respect it from womb to tomb. But, where in the Bible do we see explicit support for this?

The term "with child" (in reference to pregnant women) occurs 26 times in the Bible. The term "with fetus" never occurs. The Bible never uses anything less than human terms to describe the unborn (Exodus 21:22-23). In Luke (1:36 and 41), we are told that Elizabeth conceived a "son" and that the "babe" leaped in her womb. God does not say that a "fetus" leaped in her womb! Elizabeth greets Mary (in her early pregnancy) as "my Lord's mother." If God allows a child to be conceived, then God obviously has a plan for unborn children (Jer. 1:5; Lk. 1:13-17; Gen. 4:25; Jud. 13:3-5), and so to abort an unborn child is to stop a plan of God: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you... Psalm 139: 13: You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! Thus, based on the word of God, the Church teaches that an unborn child, from the moment of its conception in his or her mother's womb, is precious because he or she carries an immortal soul.

We, here at St. Matthias, have been always supporting Sr. Mary Vertucci and her ministry to the poor girls in Tanzania. We have listened to her touching stories of many girls who have been helped to reach successful careers because of their experience at the Emusoi Center. We have supported Emusoi Center for long with our prayers and financial support. As we enter the Respect Life month, we have a special second collection next Sunday (October 6). We wish to be participating in promoting the fullness of life that Sr. Mary Vertucci and other missionaries are doing.

Such Biblical insights and action plans are important. What about biblical understanding to be grounded in God's message for taking care of other aspects of our life? The best way is the small groups that we are starting soon. Pope St. John Paul II said, "Small Christian Communities are a tremendous source of bringing more life into our life and into a Parish." We have rightly titled this season of Bible sharing as "Fall Into Faith." Time and again we have heard the testimonies of those who were and still are in small groups. Why not be enriched the same way? For sign up information, please see page 4 of our bulletin, or call Debbie Schurko, our Director of Religious Education in the parish office.

October begins with the feast of Little Therese of Child Jesus – the very popular saint of simplicity, teaching us that we can be holy by doing the smallest acts with love. One of her many inspiring quotes that touched me is: "I learned from experience that joy does not reside in the things around us, but in the very depths of the soul, that one can have it in the gloom of a dungeon as well as in the palace of a king." May we all experience that joy, no matter what!

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal.



## Readings for the Week

**Monday** Jb 1:6-22 Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7 Lk 9:46-50

**Tuesday** Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23 Ps 88:2-3, 4-5, 6, 7-8 Lk 9:51-56

**Wednesday** Jb 9:1-12, 14-16 Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15 Mt 18:1-5, 10

**Thursday** Jb 19:21-27 Ps 27:7-8A, 8B-9ABC, 13-14 Lk 10:1-12

**Friday** Jb 38:1, 12-21 40:3-5 Ps 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab Lk 10:13-16

**Saturday** Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17 Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130 Lk 10:17-24

**Sunday** Gn 2:18-24 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 Heb 2:9-11 Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12



## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, September 28</b>	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners 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
		Mary Barrood, by The Barrood Family
	12:00PM	Francis R. & Florence S. Lyons, by Daughter Florence Francis
<b>Monday, September 30</b>	8:00AM	Healing Prayers for Ann Pomponio, by Monica Ronco
		Bob Kretkowski, by Ann Devlin
<b>Tuesday, October 1</b>	8:00AM	Joan Bell, by Tom & Sharon Gleason
<b>Wednesday, October 2</b>	8:00AM	Chris Retz, by Rosary Altar Society
<b>Thursday, October 3</b>	8:00AM	Llorente Zoleta Abante, by The Tibay Family
<b>Friday, October 4</b>	8:00AM	Darrie Christmas, by Wife, Dolores
<b>Saturday, October 5</b>	5:00PM	Isabelle Doyle, by Isabelle & John Baker
<b>Sunday, October 6</b>	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	In Memory of our Deceased Rosarians, by Rosary Altar Society
		Marie Prezotti, by Helen
	12:00PM	Jose Alomia, by The Capuno Family
		Myrna H. Ignacio, by Susan Tiongson

## Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or [email prayer@stmatthias.net](mailto:prayer@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	Emma Gergely	Mary Lou Litrakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Richard Sury
Carolyn Banghart	Claude Godet	Aries Magali	Randolff Pinard	Jacqueline Taylor
Ghislaine Baron	Marie Godet	Kenneth & Kelly	Valerie Polci	Anita Vance
Samantha Bellouny	Shelly Greene	Magat	Kim Price	Minda Villarica
<b>Carmen Bender</b>	Linda Hartong	Susan, King & Tosh	Frank Rispoli	Eileen Weber
Mary Bostrom	Jeff Hentz	Manansala	Anne Ritchik	Nancy Whelan
Tara Capatosto	Marilyn Horvath	Colleen Maniscalco	Gabriel Rivera	Michael Zambri
Rustico Castellano	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Alexandra Marquez	Bob Rotz	Ginette Zamor
Zenon DeGuzman	Marilyn Jensen	Christine Matthews	Marisa Ruppel	Anne Zando
Sanora Doyen	Jean Alix Jolly	Ann McElwee	Maria Schwenzer	
Andrea Dubuisson	Renée Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick	Amy Shepp	<b>And for all who are ill,</b>
Hattie Evans	Donna Kahora	Gail Miranda	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	<b>homebound, elderly,</b>
Margaret Ann Cichon	Betsy Kondrat	Menchie Molano-	Timothy Siclari	<b>in nursing care, or</b>
Ford	Kathy Langenbacher	Sotelo	Catherine Steele	<b>living with chronic</b>
Sharon Gadowski	Rose Larangeira	Sarah Braun Morini	Sr. Bernadine Marie	<b>illness, we pray.</b>
Heinley Gaspard	Armando D. Liban	Robert Pellegrino	Stemnock	

## Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles



## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



#### You Know You Are Out of College When:

- Your potted plants stay alive.
- Sleeping in a twin-sized bed seems absurd.
- You have to pay your own credit card bill.
- Mac & Cheese no longer counts as a well-balanced meal.
- "Extended childhood" only really pertains to your salary which is a little less than your allowance used to be.
- "Twenty-something" means over-qualified, under-paid and not married.
- You go from 130 days of vacation time to 14.

- Jeans, flannels and baseball caps aren't staples in your wardrobe.
- You stop confusing 401k plan with 10K run.
- You go to parties that police don't raid.
- You don't know what time Wendy's closes anymore.
- Your car insurance goes down.
- You refer to college students as kids.
- You feed your dog science diet instead of taco bell.
- Half your conversations with current college students start with, "When I was in college..."



#### Parenting Tune-Up

The commandments tell us not to lie, steal, murder, or commit adultery. That's pretty clear. However, sins of greed, selfishness, or general meanness are not always as clear. What actions and attitudes create unhappiness in your family? Ask your kids.

#### Marriage Tune-Up



"Whoever causes one of these little ones...to sin..." (Mark 9:42) Taking advantage of a child's innocence or failing to protect children from harm is a betrayal of trust. Use your voice as a Christian couple to speak truth to power whenever it is needed. Your vocation demands that you not sit silently.

### *A Pearl of Wisdom For This Week:*

Never Think Hard About The **PAST**, It Brings Tears...  
Don't Think More About The **FUTURE**, It Brings Fear...  
Live The **PRESENT** Moment With A Smile, It Brings Cheer.



### 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 at <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?**

## It's Downhill from First Grade, Kid...

*"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off." Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48*

In an episode of the daily comic strip 'For Better or For Worse' by Lynn Johnston [October 14, 2017], six-year-old Lizzy has had a bad day at school and she confides to her father: *! Daddy - why don't some kids get along with other kids? Sometimes, when you think someone's your friend, they're really not. Some kids do mean things for no reason. Kids fight over dumb stuff. They pick on each other. They don't share - an' they say things about other kids that aren't true. "I can't wait till I'm grown up . . . grown-ups don't do things like that to each other."*

Lizzy turns to walk away, leaving her dad with a stunned, sad expression on his face that says, *Oh, Lizzy, if you only knew . . .*

**Jesus challenges all of us adults to consider the values and faith we are modeling for our "little ones": what our public policies, our social and cultural institutions, our political and religious rhetoric reveal about the world we are building that we are handing on to them. The great responsibility of our baptisms is to show our children the purpose that our faith gives to our lives, to help those alienated from God re-connect with their sacred, to reveal the love and mercy of God to those who do not know God. To teach with conviction without judgment, to guide by example rather than by dogma, to inspire by generosity instead of sermons is to transform our world one generation at a time, to establish the reign of God one stone upon another.**

## Modern-Day Scandal Givers

The truly dangerous people to whom Jesus is referring are those evil ones who wear the mantle of religious leadership, and at the same time, by their counter-witness, turn the weak and the innocent away from God, and cause them to sin. Today, we know the irreparable harm done to the Church and the faithful by the scandals of clerical sex abuse. Likewise, unorthodox theologians and false preachers, who propagate their anti-Christian ideas under the guise of Biblical and psychological research, often give scandal. Professors, even at some Christian universities, sometime advocate moral relativism and nihilism, converting students to their false beliefs. Even teachers at Catholic universities sometimes criticize papal pronouncements as "an infringement on academic freedom." Do they not give scandal? Our major social institutions — the news media, the Internet, law, public education, and the entertainment industry — under the guise of "freedom of speech and expression," often seem hostile towards religion, erecting stumbling blocks to believers. We have an obligation to make known, with Christian courage, our views on these matters to protect the innocent.

## Did Jesus mean that we Self-Mutilate??!!

Our hands become instruments of sin according to what we touch and how we touch, in lust or greed or violence. Our feet are used for sin according to the places we have them take us. Our eyes become doorways for sins according to what we choose to look at or refuse to look at. However, it is important to understand that, in these passages about "plucking out an eye or cutting off a hand," Jesus is not speaking literally. We have more sins than we have bodily parts. Besides, even if all offending parts were removed, our hearts and minds — the source of all sins — would still be intact. Hence, these sayings are actually about our attitudes, dispositions, and inclinations. Jesus is inviting us to integrate our bodies into our following of Christ, so that our hands become instruments of compassion, healing, and comfort, our feet help us to bring the Gospel to the world, and our eyes learn to see the truth, goodness and beauty all around us.

*By these startling words about self-mutilation, Jesus also means that we must cut out of our lives all practices that keep us away from God, and retain only those habits that draw us closer to God. Jesus is setting before all his disciples the one supreme goal in life that is worth any sacrifice. That goal is God Himself and His will for our lives, which alone leads us to everlasting peace and happiness. Just as a doctor might remove a limb or some part of the body in order to preserve the life of the whole body, so we must be ready to part with anything which causes us to sin and which leads us or others to spiritual death. Billy Graham has a fantastic way of summing up this Gospel message by concluding his Crusades with a final challenge: "Decide! Cut away anything that prevents you from a radical decision for Jesus Christ! Decide for Christ!"*

## An Intolerant Person

The following anonymous piece offers a profile of such a person:  
When the other person acts that way, he's obnoxious;  
When you do it, it's nerves.  
When she is set in her ways, she is obstinate;  
When you are, it's just being firm.  
When he doesn't like your friends, he's prejudiced;  
When you don't like his, you are simply showing good judgment of human nature.  
When she tries to be accommodating, she's polishing the apple;  
When you do it, you're using tact,  
When he takes time to do things, he's plodding and slow;  
When you take forever, you're being deliberate and careful.  
When she finds fault, she's cranky;  
When you do, you're discriminating."

## Cut it off

According to an Irish legend, in olden days a group of adventurers set out from the European mainland in a few boats to conquer a new territory, what is believed to be the present Ireland. Their leader was a daring man of fortune who announced that whoever touched land first would possess the entire territory and become its king. One of his team members was named O'Neil who was determined to have the new land. He rowed mightily, but a rival boat pressed him hard, caught up with him and then outstripped him. What could he do as his rival was fast approaching the land? This strong nerved, iron minded O'Neil dropped his oars, seized battle axe, cut his left arm, and threw it upon the shore over his rival's head so that he could be the first to touch the land to make it his own. Moreover, he won the land by his heroic sacrifice. In today's gospel, Jesus uses a similar metaphor asking us to cut off our hands if it causes us to sin and prevent us from inheriting heaven.

However, let us be clear: Jesus is not asking us to self-mutilate (see explanation above). Instead, His teachings mean: We need to avoid conduct that can lead to scandal.

We give scandal and become stumbling blocks to others:

- a) when we are unkind or unjust in our treatment of them,
- b) when we reject them because of their weakness, faults or sins,
- c) when we humiliate them by hurting their pride and damaging their self-image,
- d) when we discourage, ignore, or refuse to accept them,
- e) when we ridicule them or deflate their dreams,
- f) when we follow a double standard: *Do as I say; don't do as I do,*"
- g) when we set standards which are so high that we are unable to meet them ourselves, and
- h) when we become judgmental of those who are still struggling to reach a level of commitment that we feel is too low to be useful.

**Instead, we need to become good role models: a) when we support and guide others in moments of doubt, weakness, and suffering, b) when we increase other people's self-confidence by accepting them as they are and enabling them to discover their hidden talents, c) when we help them to grow by inspiring and correcting them, d) when we forgive them and listen to them with patience, and e) when we make ourselves examples of Christian witnessing.**



## Gandhi, Mandela, Dorothy Day and Martin Luther King Jr.

With our fallen human nature, we fall victim to the evil tendency of trying to control the Spirit of God by our intolerance. Our own arrogance insists that another is not qualified to speak on justice or morality because of his/her lower educational qualifications, low-grade lifestyle, humble social background or race. As a society, we also tend to question people's legitimacy – especially when they challenge us.

**Mohandas Gandhi**, a Hindu leader in India, challenged the colonial rule of the British Empire over India with his principles of peace and non-violence. However, the intolerant British Empire, initially dismissing him as a “silly, half-naked fakir,” tried to silence him by imprisonment. But later they found, to their horror that the entire nation was behind him in its fight for freedom from colonial rule.

**Nelson Mandela** was ignored by the minority ruling class and was jailed for many years as a radical because of his option for the poor and the oppressed in South Africa.

**Dorothy Day** was imprisoned in the U. S. for her beliefs and was accused of being a Communist.

**Martin Luther King Jr.** challenged a nation and its policy of discrimination. He was continually under surveillance by the FBI and was accused of inciting sedition and of being unpatriotic.

**There are Christians who still look on believers belonging to non-Christian religions and on members of Christian denominations different from their own as heretics and semi-pagans. In today's Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples a lesson in Christian tolerance along with a warning against jealousy and scandal.**

## Envy Destroys Self

In Greek history we read of a young man who so distinguished himself in public games that his fellow citizens raised a statue in his honor, to keep fresh the memory of his victories. This statue so excited the envy of another rival who had been defeated in the races that one night he stole out under cover of darkness with the intention to destroy the statue. But he only nicked it slightly. He gave it a final heave and it fell – on top of him and killed him. –Envy always harms the one who is guilty of it. That is why in today's Gospel Jesus warns us against jealousy and envy. That's also the scenario in the first reading from the Book of Numbers: Joshua was upset that God's gift was given to those who did not follow the community's guidelines, that God's spirit was upon those who did not follow the protocol, and so he asked Moses to stop them. But Moses replied: “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all!”





## OCTOBER IS FRANCISCAN MONTH

Did you know that October is now being designated as Franciscan Month? My name is, Mary-Frances Reavey and I am a Secular Franciscan with the St. Peter Fraternity, and I would like to share with you this exciting initiative.

The mission of Franciscan Month is to celebrate the more than 800-year-old Franciscan Movement, educate about the Movement and – most importantly - demonstrate just how relevant St. Francis is today. As only one example, his virtues outlined in his Peace Prayer – love, faith, hope, giving – are so desperately needed to transform the inclination to hate prevalent in our polarized world.

Franciscan Month has something for everyone. Several events have been scheduled, including a kickoff Peace Run at St. Francis College in Brooklyn on September 30, the Transitus – St. Francis’ passing on to eternal life at different parishes on October 3 (closest to St Matthias is at Mary Mother of God church this year, contact me for info) and various Blessings of the Animals. There is one activity in particular which has raised significant interest: a Cellphone Freedom Hour. Would you like to separate from your phone? You are not alone. On October 10, between 1:00 and 2:00 pm, participants will have an opportunity to put down their phones. Following the contemplative nature of St. Francis, some will spend the hour in prayer, or take a walk to admire the beauty of nature.

Further information about Franciscan Month can be found at [www.sfc.edu](http://www.sfc.edu). Just type in Franciscan Month in the search box. For more information about Secular Franciscans feel free to email me at [mfreavey@gmail.com](mailto:mfreavey@gmail.com). We hope you will take full advantage of this exciting Month.

May God and St. Francis bless you always!

### YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE LIFE CHAIN

**When?** October 6, 2024, Sunday from 2:00 – 3:30 PM

**Where?** In Somerville, at Somerset Street & Mountain Avenue

**Contact:** Immaculate Conception (908) 725-1112.

### PRAYER FOR LIFE

Father and maker of all,  
you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness.  
Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen



### 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.



### Metuchen Cursillo Movement

The Cursillo experience is one that will enhance your spiritual life and growth for a lifetime.

Next Men's Weekend: **October 17-20, 2024** at the

Loyola Retreat House, 161 James St, Morristown, NJ.

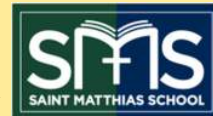
For more information visit: <http://www.metcursillo.org/>

## 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.



### FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN!

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

*Attention 2nd Graders:*

First Eucharist Preparation 2024-2025

<https://stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/>



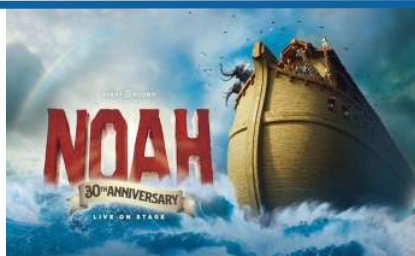
Confirmation

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



Communion

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



### 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)

## Serve



### From the St. Vincent de Paul Society

As we just celebrated September 27, the Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul, the patron of the Society, we would like to thank you and update you regarding our work over the past year. Since October 1, 2023, the beginning of our fiscal year, the members of our St Matthias Conference have visited approximately 150 households, praying, advising, providing resource contacts, and assisting financially. Because of your generosity, we have been able to help our neighbors either stay in their homes, relocate to new homes, and to keep the lights and heat on. Assistance for housing exceeded \$90,000 and for utilities and miscellaneous needs was nearly \$10,000. We ask that you continue your commitment to helping our neighbors in need. If you haven't already done so, please consider using **Parish Giving** to make a regular donation throughout the year. Know that you and our neighbors in need are always in our prayers. If you have any questions about our work, please see our website ([SVDPatSM.org](http://SVDPatSM.org)).

- Bob Cherill, President



### 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



# 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	\$8,688.80	\$12,356.50	<b>\$21,045.30</b>	\$18,885.75
Week 13 - September 29, 2024				
			Month-to-date Total	September Total Last Year
			<b>\$100,780.45</b>	\$98,964.06
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Sep 30, 2023
			<b>\$302,848.45</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 29, 2024 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*“Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.” Mark 9:41*

We are made in God’s image and likeness. We tend to forget this. When you look at others, do you see the face of Jesus in them? When others look at you, do they see the face of Jesus in you? When we realize that all lives matter to God, then gratitude and generosity become easier. Why? Because that’s the way we are made! We are one Body of Christ; when one of us is hurting, all of us feel the pain.

### Reflexiónese - 29 de septiembre de 2024 Domingo 26º del Tiempo Ordinario

*“Cualquiera que les dé un vaso de agua en mi nombre, por ser ustedes de Cristo, no perderá su recompensa. “ Marcos 9:41*

Somos hechos a imagen y semejanza de Dios. Tenemos la tendencia a olvidar eso. Cuando miramos a otros, ¿ves la cara de Jesús en ellos? Cuando otros te miran, ¿ven en ti la cara de Jesús? Cuando nos damos cuenta de que todas las vidas son importantes para Dios, entonces son más fáciles la generosidad y el agradecimiento. ¿Por qué? ¿Porque es así como estamos hechos! Somos un solo Cuerpo en Cristo; cuando uno de nosotros sufre, todos sentimos el dolor.



**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)

# Connecting to Our Local Community

## HEALING MASS

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

**For more information please visit: [www.frjohncampoli.com](http://www.frjohncampoli.com)**

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



## Be a Champion for Catholic Charities and Put Mercy into Action 50/50 RAFFLE DRAWING ~ NOVEMBER 1, 2024

We might never know the recipients of our Works of Mercy or the impact our financial gift had on their lives. Consider the family that was helped by Catholic Charities during a period of unemployment and is now on the path to self-sufficiency or, the person whose struggle with addictions is being alleviated through our Catholic Charities' counseling services. Who would guess that becoming a Champion for Catholic Charities by purchasing a raffle ticket could have such far-reaching results. When a community responds in generosity, that is exactly what happens.

By entering our Champions 50/50 Raffle, you are helping our neighbors in need and you just may win one of the two grand prizes. **Over the years, the prize for this raffle has reached as high as \$40,000 each for two lucky winners!** With your participation, we are hoping for even greater success this year. Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased by **downloading a raffle form** at [www.diometuchen.org/champions](http://www.diometuchen.org/champions) and mailing it in with your payment or by calling 732-562-2432. Thank you and good luck!

## GIRL SCOUTING IN FAITH

A **GATHERING Day** is normally held each year for Catholic Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts who would like to work on a Catholic scouting program. During that day, scouts accomplish several requirements towards their respective medals.

**This year's Girl Scout GATHERING Day will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM at St. Bernard of Clairvaux, 500 Route 22 East, Bridgewater.** Breakfast and lunch will be provided along with scouting activities and fellowship. **The cost for the program is \$15.00**

Catholic Girl Scout Medals are offered at each scout level with activities and requirements, just like with regular Girl Scout badge work. Daisy and Brownie programs are completed within the family. Junior, Cadette, and Senior medal programs are completed largely in a group environment with adult advisors.

Contact [domgirlscouts@gmail.com](mailto:domgirlscouts@gmail.com) for further information on any of the Catholic Girl Scout programs or to request a registration form for the Gathering Day.



## Parish Leadership

### Parish Pastoral Council:

#### Co-Chairs:

Frank Rees  
[Frees814@gmail.com](mailto:Frees814@gmail.com)  
Marilyn Wegg  
[mcw-wam@comcast.net](mailto:mcw-wam@comcast.net)

### Co-Secretaries:

Stephen Busono  
[sbusono@gmail.com](mailto:sbusono@gmail.com)  
Bill Isele  
[t33sm@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:@stmatthias.net)  
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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