



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Matthias Parish Office

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

Sat - 5 PM, Sun - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 noon
M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00 AM
also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
School Office Hours, Monday-Thursday 9AM-1PM, and 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

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**

Ephphatha!
BE OPENED

TODAY's Peter's Pence Collection is for the Holy Father's humanitarian initiatives, social promotion projects and church needs.



9/11 Memorial Service will be held in our church this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Please come with your children.



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD. OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM. WHEN THE DEACON IS AVAILABLE, WE CONCLUDE ADORATION WITH A BENEDICTION.

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

The Church is open for individual prayer

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

Sunday, Sept 8, 2024

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

Monday, Sept 9, 2024

**St. Peter Claver,
Apostle of the Blacks**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:00AM	School Mass	Church
6:00PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church

Tuesday, Sept 10, 2024

**St. Nicholas of Tolentino,
Confessor**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Wednesday, Sept 11, 2024

**St. John Gabriel Perboyre,
Priest & Martyr**

8:00AM	Mass	St. Joseph Novena	Church
6:30PM	9/11 Memorial Service		Church
9:30AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Group de Porres Room		

Thursday, Sept 12, 2024

Holy Name of Mary

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Friday, Sept 13, 2024

**St. John Chrysostom,
Bishop & Doctor**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, Sept 14, 2024

**Feast of the Exaltation
of the Holy Cross**

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

Sunday, Sept 15, 2024

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



Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 9 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.



Dear Friends,

September 8 is a very important day in the Marian calendar and for Marian devotion. It is the birthday of our Blessed Mother Mary. This feast day is celebrated exactly nine months after the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8. However, this year, September 8 falls on a Sunday and so Mary’s birthday is not even mentioned in the Ordo, the liturgical calendar of the Church. Even though September 8 is not a Holy Day of Obligation, many Marian devotees may be confused or even upset about this glaring omission. How is this possible? Is this not an affront or disrespect to Mary? Not at all. Why not? The reason is simple: Sunday is the Day of the Lord and it will have precedence over the feast of any other saint, even that of Mary. There can be exceptions, for instance, when the feast of the patron saint of a parish is to be celebrated on a Sunday.

In this context, it is good for us to know of a beautiful Apostolic Exhortation that Pope Saint Paul VI wrote in 1974 titled *Marialis Cultus*, (The Cult of Mary). It is a short but excellent writing on Mary. In the face of excessive pious practices and non-Biblical devotion to Mary, the Pope wanted us have a true Marian spirituality and appreciate the right place of Mary in the life of the Church. The Marian devotions should not be an end in themselves, but should clearly lead us to the mystery of Christ. Hence when a Mass is celebrated to honor Mary, the key point is that Mary is present always to glorify and to magnify the Lord. Mary never seeks her honor and glory but to glorify Jesus. Our Lady proclaimed so eloquently in her Canticle of praise—the *Magnificat*—these words: “*My soul does magnify the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...*” (Lk 1:46-47)

Paul VI insisted that a true Marian devotion should include at least three indispensable elements: Christocentric, Biblical, and Ecclesial. The document called for the need to correct some doctrinal deviations, in some popular presentations of Mary, in the light of the Scriptures and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This was very important to Catholic Church’s sensitivity to the perception of different Christian denominations who base themselves only on the Bible for their beliefs and practices, including their understanding of Mary’s role. *Marialis Cultus* no.32 reveals the concern for the restoration of Christian unity in the ecumenical environment, with the document identifying some common understandings of the mystery of Mary with the Orthodox Christians, the Anglicans and the Reformed Churches.

Today’s gospel has Jesus healing a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. Jesus takes the man aside from the crowd. Being away from the bustling noise of the crowd is very significant. Blaring voices can hinder us from hearing the voice of God. We can truly listen to God only when we create a space for silent listening. That is what Mary did as Luke testifies: *And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart - Luke 2:19. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart - Luke 2:51.* Happy Birthday to our Blessed Mother Mary!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday 1 Cor 5:1-8 Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12 Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday 1 Cor 6:1-11 Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday 1 Cor 7:25-31 Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17 Lk 6:20-26
Thursday 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13 Ps 139:1B-3, 13-14AB, 23-24 Lk 6:27-38
Friday 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27 Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12 Lk 6:39-42
Saturday Nm 21:4b-9 Ps 78:1BC-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 Phil 2:6-11 Jn 3:13-17
Sunday Is 50:4c-9a Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Jas 2:14-18 Mk 8:27-35



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, September 7	5:00pM	Nancy Collins, by Marty
Sunday, September 8	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners, by The Family
	10:00AM	Maurice (Max) Regan - 3rd Anniversary, by Family
	12:00PM	Andrew Mutchler, by Helen Mutchler
Monday, September 9	8:00AM	Emanuel & Mae Spinella by The Family
Tuesday, September 10	8:00AM	Hope Larsen, by Jon & Kellianne
		Firefighter, John Collins, by Dad
Wednesday, September 11	8:00AM	Ervin Eads, by His Children
Thursday, September 12	8:00AM	Regina Vidal, by Kathleen Referente & Family
Friday, September 13	8:00AM	Frances Natale, by Vinnie
Saturday, September 14	5:00pM	Blessings for Regina Mallare, by Sister
Sunday, September 15	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Ann & Michael Koruda by The Aiello Family
	12:00PM	Edgardo Mallare, by Sister

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at kcoun@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	Heinley Gaspard	Mary Lou Litrakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Leticia Veridiano
Brandon Barbarite	Claudia Gemgnani	John Litrakis	Randolff Pinard	Eileen Weber
Ghislaine Baron	Emma Gergely	Denis Loboda	Valerie Polci	Nancy Whelan
Helen Bell	Claude Godet	Aries Magali	Kim Price	Michael Zambri
Samantha Bellouny	Marie Godet	Kenneth & Kelly	Frank Rispoli	GINETTE Zamor
Mary Bostrom	Shelly Greene	Magat	Gabriel Rivera	Anne Zando
Tara Capatosto	Linda Hartong	Susan, King & Tosh	Bob Rotz	
Elizabeth Card	Jeff Hentz	Manansala	Marisa Ruppel	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
Lisa DeFeo	Marilyn Horvath	Alexandra Marquez	Maria Schwenzer	
Zenon DeGuzman	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Christine Matthews	Amy Shepp	
Vivian Dong	Jean Alix Jolly	Ann McElwee	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	
Sanora Doyen	Renée Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick	Timothy Siclari	
Andrea Dubuisson	Donna Kahora	Gail Miranda	Catherine Steele	
Hattie Evans	Betsy Kondrat	Menchie Molano-	Sr. Bernadine Marie	
Margaret Ann Cichon	Kathy Langenbacher	Sotelo	Stemnock	
Ford	Rose Larangeira	Sarah Braun Morini	Richard Sury	
Sharon Gadomski	Armando D. Liban	Robert Pellegrino	Anita Vance	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



For one reason or another, a group of friends missed an exam in a class they all had together, they decided to tell the professor they had been stranded with a flat tire. When they came in for the make-up exam they were handed out test booklets and when they opened the booklets the only question was "Which Tire?"

Something tells me I need to lose some weight. During a recent trip to visit my son and his family, I stopped off at a bakery to pick up dessert. After scanning the display case, I settled on a dozen pound-cake cupcakes. The clerk's pleasant response: "Is that for here or to go?"

Respect your parents, they passed school without google

Son: I'm not going back to school ever again!

Mother: Why not?

Son: The teacher doesn't know a thing, all she does is ask questions!

"The first day of school is always a fashion show. The rest of the school year? A pajama party."

"It's not that I hate school. I just hate waking up early in the morning."

"As long as teachers give tests, there will always be prayer in schools."



Parenting Tune-Up

Jesus cured the blind, deaf, lame, and mentally ill. Are you a healer? Maybe you're not in the medical profession, but every parent has times when they are a physical or emotional healer for their child. Remember, you walk in the shoes of the Master Healer.

Marriage Tune-Up

Most adult Americans remember September 11, 2001 as a day of terror. What kinds of things terrorize you? Do you know and understand your beloved's fears? See if you can guess what your spouse will say.



THE BUZZARD, THE BAT, AND THE BUMBLEBEE

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top. The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash. A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up! That's the answer, the escape route and the solution to any problem! Just look up.

3 MOST POPULAR LANGUAGES IN THE US?

Did you know, by the way, that the three most popular languages in the United States are English, Spanish, and American Sign Language? There are more non-hearing people in our land than you might imagine. One of the saddest instances of deafness that I know is that of the immortal composer of classical music, Ludwig van Beethoven. For a musician, deafness would be the tragedy of tragedies. As he himself wrote on one occasion, "How sad is my lot! I must avoid all things that are dear to me." There was a terrible time when Beethoven was struggling to conduct an orchestra playing one of his own compositions. He could not hear even the full orchestra. Soon he was beating one time and the orchestra was playing another, and the performance disintegrated in disaster. There is a pathetic picture of him after he had given a piano recital, bent over the keyboard, oblivious to the applause that thundered about him. He wrote on another occasion, "For two years I have avoided almost all social gatherings because it is impossible for me to say to people 'I am deaf.' If I belonged to any other profession it would be easier, but in my profession it is a frightful state." Beethoven died a broken, bitter man. **You and I who have our hearing, have our vision, who are able to get around with a minimum of impediments, ought to thank God every day, and we ought to salute those who overcome obstacles that we cannot even imagine.**

THE “EPHPHATHA PRAYER”

There is a little ritual in the rite of Baptism whose name and form are taken from today’s Gospel: “The Ephphatha.” The celebrant touches the ears and then the lips of the one to be baptized saying: “The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May He soon touch your ear to receive His word and your mouth to proclaim His Faith.” We are reminded that Jesus has the power to heal the spiritual deafness caused by habitually ignoring god’s promptings. Hearts that have become hardened by a refusal to hear, can be changed by: “Ephphatha! Be opened!”

Let us bring Jesus’ holy word “Ephphatha” to a generation blighted by the materialistic cultural aggression of our times: In their day, the Romans imposed their language and culture on Palestine. Modern secular culture, in fact, is no better.

Religion and God are being evicted from schools, colleges, courtrooms, politics and public life. One cannot speak of virginity or marital fidelity without a contemptuous laugh from others. The unborn child with a precious soul is often considered a “mere nuisance,” a “product of conception,” a “fetus,” “a blob of tissue,” or a “tumor that can be gotten rid of,” with no human rights. In today's motion pictures, all religious gestures are either forbidden or relegated to the ignorant or superstitious. We are told that sixty-five percent of our Catholic youth have no formal religious education beyond the eighth grade. They are exposed to the culture of free sex, loose relationships, liquor, drugs and violence. No wonder, then, if they become deaf and blind to Christian ideals of morality, holiness in life and social justice! May our Lord touch us through this Gospel so that we also can say “Ephphatha” (“Be thou opened!”) to everything and everyone shut in from or closed to God and His loving Providence.



Deaf Heather Whitestone did that.

When Heather was a child, Daphne, her mother, was advised to send Heather to a school for the deaf and not to expect her to receive more than a third-grade education. But her mother had greater ambitions for Heather. With her mother's encouragement Heather has been able to turn a hearing disability into an asset. Many of you will recognize Heather Whitestone's name as Miss America 1995. In Heather's hometown there is a poster featuring a photo of Heather, taped on a storefront. The poster reads: "They said she would only be able to get a third-grade education. Fortunately, she wasn't listening!" (Denise George, "Capturing a Nation's Heart," Pursuit, Vol. III No. 4, p. 26). Today’s Gospel tells us how a deaf and mute man receives Jesus’ healing touch.



FIVE MINUTES THAT REVEAL A GREAT DEAL

"Ephphatha!" - that is, "Be opened!" Mark 7: 31-37

A renowned marriage therapist and counselor says he can tell in five minutes of listening to a married couple's conversation what their relationship is like and whether it will endure.

Five minutes. What he listens for is the way in which they are attuned or not attuned to one another. If they pay attention and actually listen to their partner before formulating their response; if their response is conveyed with directness and respect; if there is an underlying interest in the well-being of the other person of the relationship. If these things are present in the conversation, the relationship is strong and likely to endure, even when there are considerable differences the couple is struggling to overcome.

Christ's gift of Ephphatha is the ability to put aside one's ego and wants and the need to control in order to listen with the ear of the heart to hear every word that is not said as well as said. Our self-centeredness can make us deaf to the presence of God, isolating us from God's compassion in the midst of conflict and anger, in the midst of brokenness and hurt - but Ephphatha, while not pretending disagreements do not exist, is to listen to one another with empathy: to love enough to listen from the perspective of the other and to seek the meaning of our lives in securing happiness and fulfillment in theirs.

MIRACULOUS TRANSFORMATION

A working man was strongly drawn towards a beautiful vase he saw in a stall down in the town market. He bought the vase and brought it home. The vase was so beautiful that it made his front room look drab, dull, and indeed plain ugly. So he got bright paints and transformed the whole house. He got colorful curtains to match the paint, a brightly patterned carpet, and he even stripped down and varnished the furniture. Because of the beauty of the vase the whole room was transformed. - When Jesus enters my heart, the areas in need of attention become, oh, so obvious. Holiness consists in discovering that I am a much bigger sinner than I ever thought I was! The closer I come to God the more obvious the contrast! When Jesus comes to our lives, his touch, and his presence make all the difference.

REFLECTION ON GROUND ZERO

(Father Joseph Bayne, OFM Conv., was chief chaplain of the Erie County Emergency Services, chaplain of the Buffalo Fire Department, NY)

As a follower of Francis of Assisi, I'm challenged to bring joy to a broken and sorrow-filled world. In the days following September 11, 2001, I was challenged to take this ministry to Ground Zero as an emergency services chaplain. The experience changed me, and 10 years later, I still feel the emotion, and tears still come easily.

My role as chaplain for emergency services is a "ministry of presence." I roamed around Ground Zero in my turnout gear, speaking to the rescue personnel as they came off the smoking burning pile that was holy ground. I shook hands, hugged, gave bottles of water and often prayed quietly with them. I even mustered some smiles and laughter. I met the CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald, the man who lost over 700 of his staff. I spoke with cops and fire fighters. In true St. Francis of Assisi style, I patted and blessed the rescue dogs as they came off the pile after their shift.

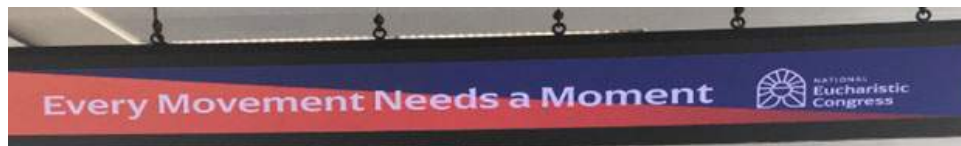
During a break, some of us visited one of the World Trade Center buildings still standing and still safe, despite its windows being blown out. This spot allowed us to go up a floor or two and literally look down into Ground Zero. Here, I stopped my friends and said that I needed to pray for Father Mychal Judge. They instinctively huddled around me, joining hands, and surrounded me in support. I prayed quietly, then openly and I wept.

This experience changed me in some ways. I'm still a sinner, still a bit of a workaholic, still at times trying to "save the world, with my messiah complex." But this tragedy and the humbling opportunity to minister at Ground Zero made me reflect lots on the gift of life, relationships, on making every day good in some way, and using the opportunities and gifts God pours upon us. It made me be more conscious of trying "not to sweat the small stuff" as my father had taught me. Life is so precious and yet so fragile. A hug, a smile, an embrace, a kind word, a strong or gentle handshake – all took on new meaning for me.

In the days following the tragedy, some said they saw the face of the devil in the smoke at Ground Zero. Many asked me about the same, and my answer hasn't changed in 10 years. No, I did not see the devil's face at Ground Zero. I saw the face of God in the people working, caring, sweating, crying, rescuing, recovering and being very spiritual in their very humanness. I was moved and changed and felt God's hand in the goodness that followed such tragedy. My ministry embodied the prayer of Saint Francis, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."

Reflections on the National Eucharistic Congress: Emile Capuno

Today we have Emile Capuno's 3rd and final instalment on her experience in Indianapolis:



Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle presided the NEC closing Mass and he reminded us, "what you have received as a gift you must give as gift." Bishop Cozzens introduced the US Bishops initiative Walk with One, <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one>, to be God's instrument in the life of another person. At the end of his remark, he asked the pilgrims a question: "Will you be a Eucharistic Missionary?" I say YES! Will you?

Here are some talks at the NEC worth listening to:

Day 1: From the 4 Corners

Sister Bethany Madonna: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyQJCZh5A8Y>

Day 2: The Greatest Love Story

Monsignor James Shea: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93Q2kgvA31k>

Lila Rose: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10K7ki2mAno>

Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36UcdIG_6VUhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36UcdIG_6VU

Father Mike Schmitz:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2QtWaEFq3E><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2QtWaEFq3E>

Pray



RCIA

If you came for the Easter Vigil, you saw some of our adult parishioners receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. They had undertaken a process known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for about 10 months. Our next process will begin in September. There are weekly gatherings where people come together to share, grow, and understand the Catholic faith. These are not classes but a faith-sharing group. If you know anyone who has not received these Sacraments of Initiation, kindly invite him/her to try this process. Please contact Parish Office at: 732-828-1400.

Connect

Catholic Community of St. Matthias

RACIAL
JUSTICE
INITIATIVE



Catholic Social Teaching in the Public Square ELECTION 2024 REFLECTION SERIES

SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, September 19

Thursday, September 26

Thursday, October 3

Thursday, October 10

All sessions are from 7 - 8:30 pm in the John XXIII room at St. Matthias.



As the Racial Justice Initiative here at St. Matthias, we feel it necessary to open a dialogue on racial justice issues as they pertain to politics in America, with a focus on our responsibilities as dictated by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. This dialogue will take place over four weekly sessions, each one-and-one-half hour long, during which we will pray, discuss CST principles, watch informative videos on pertinent topics, reflect, and discuss. The topics will be broken out as per the USCCB Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: **HUMAN DIGNITY, THE COMMON GOOD, SUBSIDIARITY, SOLIDARITY.**

***PLEASE NOTE:** These sessions will be strictly **NON-PARTISAN** and focused solely on issues as they pertain to **RACIAL JUSTICE.**

For more detailed information visit: www.stmatthias.net/election2024/



ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON ZOOM, SEPTEMBER 11TH AT 2 PM

The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for individuals living with Alzheimer's or Dementia, their care partners, and others dealing with the disease. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, September 11th, from 2:00 pm-3:30 pm** on Zoom. To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group.

The Group provides a safe and supportive environment and offers dementia-related education, emotional support, and connections with resources so that the group members may enhance their lives in the midst of the journey. For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.

SERVICEWORX – OUR YOUTH SHARE # 4



Named for the biblical passage “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:26), ServiceWorX is an innovative program seeking to engender in participants a deep understanding of systemic poverty and instill lifelong values of justice through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. Our Teens had a week of immersion and reflection which they found extremely helpful. Here’s the sharing by a 4th young person, **Alexander Bandong**:

- 1) One service site that I went to was Somerset CAP. What I did there was helping the daycare workers with the children.
- 2) What I enjoyed most about the service work was meeting new people and helping the community. What I enjoyed about the reflection activities was the family groups because we would share what we did at the sites.
- 3) A challenge that I faced while doing service was the language barrier between me and the people I was helping.
- 4) The lesson that I learned from this experience was small simple acts of kindness can help people a lot.
- 5) I found that the story of the Good Samaritan related to what I did in ServiceworX because I was helping the people who were in need of help like the Good Samaritan.

Learn



2024-2025 Registration
PREK3- OPEN SPOTS ✝ **PREK4- LIMITED AVAILABILITY**

PLEASE CALL FOR AVAILABILITY IN GRADES K-8

St. Matthias School 170 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Somerset, NJ 732-828-1402

MAKE A DONATION FROM THE HEART. ♥

Consider helping families in need by providing tuition help.
Need information on how to contribute to our Tuition Angels Fund?

Please contact:

Mrs. Jo-Ann Piagentini, mrspiag@aol.com or Dr. Judy Marino, jdmarino4@gmail.com



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/>

Confirmation

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

Serve



Altar Servers Wanted!

Are you a student in grade 5 or higher? Would you like to play a prominent role at Mass each week?

We are looking for students that would like to join the Altar Servers Ministry.

There will be a training session in the church on **Tuesday, September 10 at 7 PM.**

Students should attend the training with a parent or guardian.

If you have any questions, please email sacristan, **Mike Lanyi** at mdlanyi@comcast.net.

See you on the 10th!

Morning of Service



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

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

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 5 - August 4, 2024	\$8,816.00	\$13,160.50	\$21,976.50	\$28,579.75
Week 6 - August 11, 2024	\$9,162.00	\$25,127.00	\$34,289.00	\$28,745.75
Week 7 - August 18, 2024	\$13,752.00	\$13,153.50	\$26,905.50	\$29,132.75
Week 8 - August 25, 2024	\$8,666.00	\$11,436.50	\$20,102.50	\$19,508.25
Due to the holiday, publishing of the bulletin was accelerated. The updated Stewardship Totals will be in next week's bulletin.			Month-to-date Total	August Total Last Year
			\$103,273.50	\$105,966.50
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of August 31, 2023
			\$202,068.00	\$226,076.35

Stewardship Reflection September 8, 2024 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?” James 2:5

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society tells us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first and experience true joy and peace. When we put possessions first, we soon realize we can never have enough and happiness is fleeting. When we put faith over possessions we truly realize it is better to give than receive.

Reflexiónese - 8 de septiembre de 2024 Domingo 23^o del Tiempo Ordinario

“¿No ha elegido Dios los pobres de este mundo, para que sean ricos en fe, y herederos del Reino que prometió a los que le aman?” Santiago 2:5

¿Qué es más importante -ser rico en la fe o rico en posesiones? La sociedad nos dice que las posesiones son lo más importante. Dios nos enseña una lección diferente. Cuando somos ricos en la fe, mantenemos a Dios en primer lugar y experimentamos la verdadera alegría y la paz. Cuando ponemos las posesiones en primer lugar, pronto nos damos cuenta de que nunca tendremos suficiente y la felicidad es pasajera. Cuando ponemos la fe por encima de las posesiones nos damos cuenta de que realmente es mejor dar que recibir.



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THINK SNOW! THINK CHRISTMAS!**



SPREAD THE LIGHT IS COMING!

It is not too soon to begin to think about our “Spread the Light” campaign in December. This is a wonderful opportunity to honor your loved ones, your business, a family milestone or any other celebration or occasion. Last year we lit in excess of 270 trees which brightened our church and spread good will to all our neighbors in Somerset and beyond.

This is the largest fund raiser for the parish. We thank all our past participants and we encourage all parishioners to join in this inspirational, and what is becoming, an honored tradition in our parish and community. Help us “Spread the Light”!

Sign up forms are available at exit doors of the church and on our website.

www.stmatthias.net/trees



Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. If you want to simplify your life, go to our website, www.stmatthias.net and click on the Parish Giving Link under ‘Give’.

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

Connecting to Our Local Community



Metuchen Cursillo Movement

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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/>

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September 13, 2024 - September 15, 2024

Loyola Jesuit Center, 161 James Street, Morristown, NJ 07960

973-539-0740, Email: retreathouse@loyola.org.



“The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.” These encouraging words of Pope Francis are at the heart of this Ignatian retreat with its invitation to awaken us in the joyful presence of Jesus. By encountering Jesus in the Scriptures, we will ask our Risen Lord to open our eyes, ears, and hearts to his loving presence in our everyday lives of prayer and service. Please call or e-mail for details & registration.

UPDATE ABOUT OUR CHURCH MEDIA PROJECT

This bulletin had to be sent to the publisher before Labor Day. As you read this, our new projection and livestream system will have been installed with the screen, projector, cameras etc. Previous bulletins had explained the plans in detail. The concern of some of our parishioners about projecting images or placing screen on the wall was also addressed in the previous issue. The new addition on the wall behind the choir does not violate the sanctity of the sanctuary. That would have been a concern in any other church where the sanctuary and wall are contiguous or in close proximity. It is not the case in our church. Our sanctuary and altar are surrounded by people. There is a distance of over 20 feet between the altar and the wall, and our choir is filling that gap. Hence the concern some of our parishioners feel is not relevant in our case considering the unique layout of our church. What makes us uniquely a Eucharistic community is having our sanctuary with the altar and the pulpit in the center with all of us the People of God surrounding it is. If anyone has lingering doubts, please email the Pastor at abraham@stmatthias.net

The new livestream system, with its high-definition remote-controlled cameras, is to vastly improve image brightness and contrast. Mr. Jeff Beck and Mr. Joe Mancuso have been working tirelessly on this project. We hope to see a very much improved experience of the media use in our church. We are grateful to the parishioners who have been volunteering to help with the tech part of projecting the slides for our Sunday Masses. We invite more such tech-savvy parishioners to consider volunteering to help with the live-streaming once the media update is complete.

Parish Leadership

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

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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