



**St. Matthias Parish Office:**  
**Effective Jun. 20, 2022 Summer Hours**  
 Open Mon-Thu 8:30-4:00PM; Fri: 8:30-12:30PM  
 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 - 5PM, Sun - 8, 10 AM & 12 noon  
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM  
 And 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, Eff. 8/29/22**  
 Mon-Fri 8AM to 3PM.

**For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net**  
**Pastor:** Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)  
**Senior Priest:** Msgr. Seamus Brennan, [sbrennan](mailto:sbrennan@stmatthias.net)  
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator  
[mpburke-grospin](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)  
 Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*  
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, [kcounts](mailto:kcounts@stmatthias.net)  
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdemkovitz](mailto:rdemkovitz@stmatthias.net) Juan  
 Juan Diaz Flores, *Custodian*  
 Nathalie Godet, *Website Coordinator*, [ngodet](mailto:ngodet@stmatthias.net)  
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 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, [SMYLE](mailto:SMYLE@stmatthias.net)  
 Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*  
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation*, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)  
 Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, [vnatale](mailto:vnatale@stmatthias.net)  
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*  
 Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)  
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for Music Ministry* [jseamon](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net)  
 Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral Assoc. for Social Concerns*, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)  
 Trish Stumper, *Par. Support Secretary*, [tstumper](mailto:tstumper@stmatthias.net)

**St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)**  
 Mary Lynch, Principal, [mlynch](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org)  
 Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org)

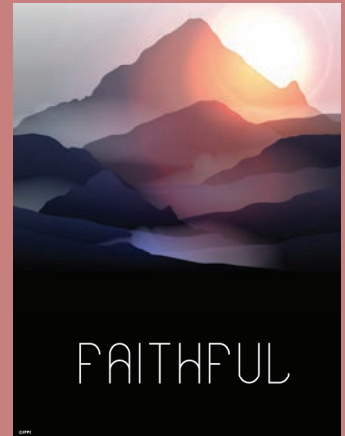
## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

### SUNDAY, SEP 18, 2022– 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**60th Anniversary Picnic is  
TODAY, beginning at 1:00PM.**

**60th Anniversary Edition Cookbooks  
are In!!!!**

**Pick up your cookbooks  
TODAY after all Masses in  
the Cry Room.**

See the article on our St. Vincent DePaul Society on page 9.



### The Christmas tree Spread the Light Campaign is Here!!!

It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year! Our annual Christmas tree "Spread the Light" campaign is upon us! By donating \$200 you can sponsor a tree to honor a loved one, celebrate a special event, or perhaps, express thanks for God's many gifts, all while helping to light up our church grounds to bring holiday joy to our congregation and our neighbors. Flyers will be available in church and forms can also be found on our website. **The Deadline to Order Your Tree is October 14.** Join in this wonderfully moving tradition that helps support our church and brings joy to so many.

For more information and to order a tree visit [www.stmatthias.net/tree](http://www.stmatthias.net/tree)



Please select **St. Matthias Church/School** as your charity on Amazon Smile. You only need to do this once. Then always shop at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), and we will automatically receive a portion of the purchase total. Thank you!

# This Week @ St. Matthias From the Pastor

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

The Church is open for individual prayer

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

**Sunday Sep 18, 2022 Parish/ School Picnic Event**  
Catechetical Sunday

**Cookbook: pick up & Sales AFTER MASSES ONLY**  
In Cry Rm.

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Parish/School - Wide Picnic Event	Parish Grounds

**Monday, Sep 19, 2022 St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr**

8:00AM	Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
6:00PM	Property Management Mtg.	Zoom
7:00PM	Finance Council Mtg.	TBD

**Tuesday Sep 20, 2022 Andrew Kim & Co, 1st Korean Priest & St. Paul Chong Hasang—Martyrs**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:30PM	Pastoral Council Mtg.	de Porres Rm/& Zoom

**Wednesday, Sep 21, 2022 Feast—St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Grp.	de Porres Rm
7:00PM	GIFT Planning Mtg.	Zoom

**Thursday, Sep 22, 2022 St. Thomas of Villanova, Religious & Bishop**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	Children's Choir Gr. 3 & 4	Church
4:00PM	Children's Choir Gr. 5-8	Church
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

**Friday, Sep 23, 2022 Memorial— Padre Pio, Priest, Mystic & Stigmatist**

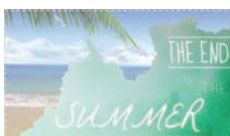
8:00AM	Mass	Church
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**Saturday, Sep 24, 2022 Martyrs of Chalcedon**

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

**Sunday Sep 25, 2022 Fall Into Faith—new**  
Registration begins

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	SMYLE Youth Group Social	Cafeteria



### Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by 8 AM, MONDAY, 6 before the bulletin date (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.



Dear Friends,

Just a week ago, we had the funeral of Marion Fischer who was the librarian for St. Matthias School for 45 years. She and her husband Francis "Frank" Fischer were among the founders of our parish. She passed on her faith to her children and grandchildren by her example of living the faith and participating both in the church ministries and community activities. Her family said that she would not be deterred by the most dire weather conditions from attending Sunday Mass! May she rest in peace. As we mourn the passing away of this vibrant disciple of Jesus, and become aware of the decreasing number of the founding members of our parish, we need to ask ourselves this important question: how seriously are we taking on the mantle of these pioneers in living and passing on our faith?

Today is national Catechetical Sunday - a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. This year's theme for the Catechetical Sunday is: "This is my body given for you" (Luke 22:19). We have heard so many times that the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. The term "Eucharist" originates from the Greek word *eucharistia*, meaning thanksgiving. In the celebration of the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and the instrumentality of the priest. The whole Christ is truly present -- body, blood, soul, and divinity -- under the appearances of bread and wine, the glorified Christ who rose from the dead. This is what the Church means when she speaks of the "Real Presence" of Christ in the Eucharist.

Catechists are the ones who are teaching this and other truths about our faith to our children who attend our religious education/GIFT and sacramental preparation programs. We, here at St. Matthias, are blessed with wonderful women and men who give their time and energy as Catechists. We are very grateful to them. Today at all the Masses you will hear some of them speak to us about their passion as Catechists. I hope their testimony will inspire some of you to volunteer as Catechists. Being part of St. Matthias is life-giving as is the experience of so many -- including Marion Fischer who, in the words of her children, "found her strength in her work among the children."

Learning of our faith is not to be relegated only to children. We all need this learning. Don't we all have many doubts about what we believe and practice? That is why we all need to choose something intentionally from the opportunities our parish offers. We are preparing to begin the RCIA sessions and the Fall Into Faith small faith sharing groups. These are excellent ways to learn more about the Word of God and our faith in a setting where we have ample time and freedom to clarify many of our questions on faith matters. I invite us all to consider this seriously and make a decision in the coming weeks as you will be hearing more about these two programs.

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

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

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

**Wednesday:** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Mt 9:9-13

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

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

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

**Sunday:** Am 6:1a, 4-7; Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Sep 17</b>	5:00PM	Frank Sciotto, by Lena & grandchildren
<b>Sunday, Sep 18</b>	8:00AM	Elizabeth D'Alessio, by Gail & Paul Smoley
	10:00AM	Ethan Archer, by Karen & Joe Pinder
	12:00PM	Frank Catauna, by Catherine Campen
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Monday, Sep 19</b>	8:00AM	Thomas Neville, by Jean & Jim Clarkin
<b>Tuesday, Sep 20</b>	8:00AM	James McElwee, by Sr. Marie Therese
<b>Wednesday, Sep 21</b>	8:00AM	Carmen Elena Verna, by The Aumack Family
<b>Thursday, Sep 22</b>	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Shirley Stone, by Jim Stone
<b>Friday, Sep 23</b>	8:00AM	Sylvia Pura, by Purita Aligaen
<b>Saturday, Sep 24</b>	5:00PM	Eillen McAdams, by Margaret Gallagher
<b>Sunday, Sep 25</b>	8:00AM	Michalina & Stefan Tobiasz, by Granddaughter & Family
	10:00AM	Hugh Scott, by The 10 o'clock Mass Choir
	12:00PM	Norman Siebenlist, by Eileen
	(5:30PM)	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 [kcoun@stmatthias.net](mailto: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  
Gloria Barone-Tuckey  
Edith Benko  
Angela Berlund  
Tara Capatosto  
Ellen Catalina  
Michael DiMaggio  
William Dolphin  
Vivian Dong  
Claudia Gemgnani  
[Helen Geraghty](#)  
Emma Gergely  
Rose Gessner  
Mary Gidaro  
Carol Gryskiewicz  
Eileen Hansen  
Sloopy & John Hoffman  
[Marilyn Horvath](#)  
Baby Isla-Rose Huffman

Robert Kashinsky  
Kathleen Lagenbacher  
The Litrakis Family  
John Litrakis  
Clarissa & Kevin Magat  
Al Maglio  
Beatrice May  
Margaret Menendez  
Carol Millemann  
Sabrina Moloney  
Kathlyn Moore  
Dave Moynihan  
Eleanor Nagy  
Janice Navatkowski  
Paul & Doris Paetow  
Robert Pellegrino  
Jim Pettit  
Christina Pietrowiak  
Doris Regan

Gabriel Rivera  
Jaxon Rivera  
Maria Schwenzer  
Lena Sciotto  
Tippur Seshagiri  
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF  
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF  
Kathleen Smith  
Jeff Sullivan  
Angie Montalbo Tinio  
Jerry Tongson  
Regina Wellman  
Robert Wesner  
Nancy Whelan  
Mark T. Worthington

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

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles



## Smile with Your Family



A one liner smile: Q: Did you hear about the painter who was hospitalized? A: Reports say it was due to too many strokes. 😊

Child: I think we need a new teacher. Mom: Why's that?

Child: Our teacher doesn't know anything! She keeps asking us for the answers... 😊

Trustworthy with dishonest wealth?: John wanted a new suit, so he bought a nice piece of cloth and then tried to locate a tailor. The first tailor he visited looked at the cloth and measured John, then told him the cloth was not enough to make a suit. John was unhappy with this opinion and sought another tailor. This tailor measured John, then measured the cloth, and then smiled and said, "There is enough cloth to make a coat and a vest, please come back in a week to take your suit." After a week John came to take his new suit, and saw the tailor's son wearing trousers made of the same cloth. Perplexed, he asked, "Just how

could you make a full suit for me and trousers for your son, when the other tailor could not make a suit only?" "It's very simple," replied the tailor, "The other tailor has two sons." 😊

Estate Planning: Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business. When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father would die, he decided he needed a wife with whom to share his fortune. One evening at an investment meeting he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. "I may look like just an ordinary man," he said to her, "but in just a few years, my father will die, and I'll inherit 20 million dollars." Impressed, the woman obtained his business card and a week later she became his stepmother. Who is better at estate planning... crooked men or crooked women? 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

School is in full swing for most families. Even if your child is too young for school remember this maxim: It's not what the teacher says, but what the student hears, that matters. This applies to parents and children too.



### "I didn't Speak Up"

With the Second World War behind him, the German Lutheran pastor, Martin Niemöller, wrote his now famous confession called "I Didn't Speak Up," and it is apropos:

"In Germany, the Nazis first came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, but I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time there was no one left to speak for me."

Would that all of those involved in the religious enterprise were as effective as the manager in this parable! "What shall I do...?" he immediately wondered. He quickly cleared his brain to answer that one. He did not deny the reality of his need to take action, and he escaped ingeniously.

### Marriage Tune-Up



"Marriage is not 50-50. Divorce is 50-50. Marriage has to be 100-100. It isn't dividing everything in half, but giving everything you've got."

### Crooked stockbroker and Financial Planner

Claude Locket, of Orleans, Massachusetts, showed such charm and inspired such trust as a stockbroker and financial planner that dozens of retired persons and elderly widows invested their life savings with him. The thirty-four-year-old seemed to be the model of professionalism. Suddenly, in December, 1991, Locket disappeared. At first, foul play was suspected, but then it was learned that \$1.7 million was missing from client accounts. Then Locket's van, with stubs for plane tickets to Paris, was discovered in the parking area of Kennedy Airport in New York. Embezzlement and larceny charges were brought against Locket, but he could not be found. Meanwhile, Locket's elderly clients were left with big losses. Most who had invested through Locket were living on fixed incomes or modest pensions. On February 21, 1992, "Prime Suspect," a nationally syndicated television show that airs fugitive cases, described Locket's case. Two callers from Los Angeles telephoned to report that a man fitting Locket's description was living in their area. Locket was arrested. None of the money was found. When Los Angeles Detective Carl Holmstrom asked Locket why he stole \$1.7 million from clients, the fugitive broker showed no remorse. His only comment? "Everybody does it." [Dr. William P. Barker,

(Cont'd on next page)

## Crooked stockbroker ... (cont'd)

Tarbell's (Elgin, Illinois: David C. Cook Church Ministries, 1994).]

In today's Gospel Jesus tells the story of such a con artist incomes or modest pensions. On February 21, 1992, "Prime Suspect," a nationally syndicated television show that airs fugitive cases, described Locket's case. Two callers from Los Angeles telephoned to report that a man fitting Locket's description was living in their area. Locket was arrested. None of the money was found. When Los Angeles Detective Carl Holmstrom asked Locket why he stole \$1.7 million from clients, the fugitive broker showed no remorse. His only comment: "Everybody does it." [Dr. William P. Barker, Tarbell's (Elgin, Illinois: David C. Cook Church Ministries, 1994).] In today's Gospel Jesus tells the story of such a con artist.

## Plans for Your Future... with God?

Those who are going to retire ask two questions:

- 1) "How much money will I need to retire comfortably?"
- 2) "Will I be able to die with dignity?"

The Presidential Commission on Retirement in the U.S. informs us that we will need about seventy percent of our present income to live about as we live today. If the present lifestyle costs us about \$50,000, we are going to need about \$35,000 to retire comfortably. According to PCR there are three resources for our income of the future: a) Social Security, b) the retirement program from our place of employment, and c) our savings account. But everybody knows that in the not so distant future, Social Security benefits will be reduced because there will not be a sufficient number of workers in the workforce to pay for the huge number of previously retired people still alive. In addition, seventy percent of the people working in America do not have a pension program through their employer. Besides, Americans in general are notoriously poor savers, and, hence, most of them have not saved enough money to pay the bills of their future retirement. So can we be sure that when the end of our life comes we are not going to end up in bankruptcy and poverty? Are we making plans for our long-term future? How is our investment program doing? Today's Gospel asks the same question: Are we really wise in planning for our long-term future with God? Are we as wise in storing up for ourselves treasures in heaven for our eternal retirement as we are in gathering treasures on earth for our retirement here?



## Waddling Ducks

Søren Kierkegaard, the Danish philosopher, once told about a make-believe country where only ducks lived. On Sunday morning all the ducks came into Church, waddled down the aisle, waddled into their pews and squatted. Then the duck minister came in, took his place behind the pulpit, opened the Duck Bible and read, "Ducks! You have wings, and with wings you can fly like eagles. You can soar into the skies! Ducks! You have wings!" All the ducks yelled, "Amen!" and then they all waddled home. [Jim Burns, *Radically Committed* (Dallas: Word Publishing, 1991).] No one flew or even tried. Friends, there's just too much truth to that little fable. Using the parable of a rascal manager in today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to see that it is time for the children of light to quit waddling. It's time for us to soar by wisely using our God-given talents and blessings for the welfare of others, thus glorifying God and becoming eligible for our eternal reward. May we be the people that Jesus praises because we saw something that needed to be done and we did it.

***We need to act wisely, trusting in the power and assistance of God. Today's parable gives us some practical advice. We are urged to stride into the future with confidence -- not in ourselves or our abilities, but in the power and grace of God. The manager in Jesus' story used all his resources to secure his future. We must be no less resourceful. At our disposal we have Hope in God's justice, Faith in God's assistance, and trust in God's grace. We have the Holy Mass and the Seven Sacraments as sources of Divine grace, the Holy Bible as the word of God for daily meditation and practice, and the Spirit-guided Church to direct us. These are the best possible resources; we need to use them in such a way that it will be said of us, "And the master commended them because they acted so wisely."***

## Returned overpayments!

CNN reported that In March, 1994, the huge defense contractor Martin Marietta returned to the Pentagon some 540 overpayments, totaling \$135 million. Of course, that was nothing compared to the \$1.4 billion in overpayments various defense contractors returned to the Pentagon in 1993. With a fresh reading of the parable of the unjust steward in today's Gospel in mind, it is hard to read a report like that without wondering, where the truth is. Defense contractors do not belong to altruistic organizations. So why did Martin Marietta really return \$135 million to the Pentagon? And if \$1.4 billion in overpayments was returned in 1993, how much was not returned? The unjust steward in today's Gospel parable was also not concerned with truth and justice, but with his survival by any means.

***We need to be prepared to give an account of our life. We are all stewards of what God has entrusted to us, so some day we will have to give Him an account of our stewardship. We prepare our-***

## Reflect

### Returned overpayments! (cont'd.)

selves for all kinds of things, most of which never happen. But do we care enough for our souls to insure ourselves against the one thing that most certainly will happen? We must meet God, and give an accounting. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil" (II Corinthians 5:10). Thus, the only thing that will count in our favor is the testimony of those who will say, "Lord, when I was really in need, he gave to me, at cost to himself. He helped me along. He showed love to me, and proved it by giving himself to me."

### The Crafty Steward among Us

We all know this guy.

He always knows the right thing to say. He can talk himself out of any problem. He knows how far he can go; he has an uncanny ability to know when the deal is going south and how to save it.

He doesn't care about the quality of the product he's selling or the conscientiousness of the service he's marketing — he could be selling a house or hardware, it doesn't matter. He's all about the sale — and his commission. His real product is himself.

We all know this guy.

You're his best friend as long as your check clears. You're a terrific human being because of what you can do for him. You can count on him — as long as you're active on his client list. You can trust him — until you can't. We know this guy. He's mastered the ability to turn on sincerity and humility like a light switch. His life is a treadmill from one deal to the next.

Yeah, we know this guy. We know his act — and still, we buy into it.

Because more times than we realize or care to admit, we are this guy.

*The parable of the dishonest steward is one of the most problematic stories in all of the Gospel. At first reading, it seems that Jesus is commending the larceny of the steward (is he prudent, dishonest, clever, incompetent — or all of the above?). Perhaps most disturbing is that deep inside we admire his ability to land on his feet — part of us would like to possess his nerve. So why does Jesus hold this guy up as a model of anything positive or commendable? Because of his ability and ingenuity to get things done. Jesus challenges us to be as ingenious for the sake of God's reign as we are in our careers and pro-*

*fessions, to be as ready and willing to use our time and money to accomplish great things in terms of the Gospel as we are to secure our own security and happiness, to open our hearts to the possibilities we have to build God's Kingdom of compassion, mercy and peace in our time and place. Profit and security are important, to be sure — but for disciples of Jesus, the good we are able to bring about, the work we are able to do in order to bring God's reign of justice and compassion to reality, should be the motivating force in our lives. Our faith should challenge us to be as eager and as ingenious for the sake of God's reign, to be as ready and willing to use our time and "wealth" to create God's Kingdom of justice and peace as we are to secure our own security and happiness.*

### Shrewd Farmer and the Crooked Lawyer

There was a story in the newspaper about a young lawyer who was called in from the big city to represent a large railroad company that was being sued by a farmer. It seems that the farmer's prize cow was missing from a field through which the railroad passed, and the farmer was suing for the value of the cow. Before the case was to be tried, the lawyer cornered the farmer and convinced him to settle out of court for half of what he originally wanted. The farmer signed the necessary papers and then accepted the check. The young lawyer could not resist gloating a bit about his success. He said to the farmer, "You know, I couldn't have won this case if it had gone to trial. The engineer was asleep and the fireman was in the caboose when the train passed through your farm that morning. I didn't have a single witness to put on the stand!" With a wry smile, the old farmer replied, "Well, I tell you young feller, I was a little worried about winning that case myself because that cow came home this morning." Both the farmer and the lawyer could have related to a shrewd crook Jesus told us about.

*We need to be faithful in little things of life: Often we get so caught up in our work that we ignore the little things of life. But let us not ignore these little matters -- things like dropping someone an encouraging note or extending people a simple, "Thank you." Similarly, we ought to take time out of our workday to help others in small things. As Saint John Chrysostom said, "Faithfulness in little things is a big thing." We may not be able to reach millions of people all over the world by satellite as famous talk show hosts or televangelists do. But in our own part of the world we can faithfully do little things to point people toward Jesus. Our future opportunities in the eternal service of God largely depend on our stewardship in handling the little opportunities we have had on earth. As St. Teresa of Calcutta (Blessed Mother Teresa, canonized September 4, 2016 by Pope Francis), used to recommend, "Do little things with great love."*

## Reflect



### Want to know more about Prayer?

What is prayer? How can I pray personally? What is the proper way for me to pray? These are questions people keep asking. One of our parishioners, Ivette Mitchel, who has lots of experience in guiding others to pray, has offered to lead four sessions on these important aspects. If you are interested, please contact Ivette by phone at (908) 247-6039 or email at [ladyi63@aol.com](mailto:ladyi63@aol.com) She will finalize the details after hearing from you.

## Pray

### The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)



Just a reminder that the RCIA is intended for:

- + Unbaptized adults, + Adults who have been baptized into a non-Catholic denomination
- + Adults who have been baptized Catholic but never received first Eucharist or Confirmation

NOW IS THE TIME TO FIND OUT MORE! Contact our RCIA Co-Coordinator Anne Marie Francis: [alfrancis.30@gmail.com](mailto:alfrancis.30@gmail.com) or Mary Frances Reavey: [mfreavey@gmail.com](mailto:mfreavey@gmail.com) to find out more information or to set up an appointment. Be on the look out for the dates for our Inquiry sessions that will be held on Sundays.

### Altar Servers Wanted!

Calling all students in grades 5-12. We are looking for people to help at all the masses by volunteering as altar servers. Training will be held shortly for anyone that is new to this ministry. Information and a sign up form can be found at: <https://www.stmatthias.net/liturgical/>



### Calling Our Silver & Gold Wedding Jubilarians

You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Metuchen and renew your marriage vows with Bishop James Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen on Sunday, October 30, 2022 at 3:30 PM. Registration is required.

**Deadline for registration is October 7.**

Please register online at: <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-goldanniversary-celebration>.

If you are unable to access, please contact the Family Life Office at 732-562-1543 or [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org). Registration will close on October 7, 2022.

Although no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given a donation of gratitude to your parish Church or to the Diocese in memory of this special occasion.



## Learn



**Small groups, in fact, are where much of the theology taught in 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 spiritu-

al support.

**Small faith-sharing groups also meet a very practical and human need: the need to belong.**

We are communal creatures: we were made by a community of love called the Trinity and because community is our origin, we'll 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 will call you out for those areas you wish to improve. Thus it creates 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? Visit "Small Groups"- [www.stmatthias.net/fait-form](http://www.stmatthias.net/fait-form) for details or <https://forms.gle/jte18tno7kA9nQYW6> .**

**Groups begin October 10.**

## 2022-2023 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation

We are happy to invite all parents/families with children in K-8, who are not attending a Catholic school, to register their children for our wonderful religious education/formation program for 2022-2023.

The 2022-2023 registration form for our K-8 family-based parish program of religious formation, G.I.F.T. [Growing In Faith Together], is currently available to complete online at 2022-2023 GIFT for K-8 Religious Ed <https://www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/>. Please register your family/children in grades K-8. This year we are planning to offer 3 sessions each month: on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM *without a meal* because of the COVID-19 precautions; and on Sunday afternoons at 2PM, again without a meal. You choose which one of the three sessions to attend.



The fees for the program are noted on parish website page. Please register online; the fee can also be paid online. **Please note: GIFT is required for all children in grades 1-8 who are not attending a Catholic school; it is optional for kindergarten students. It is required for non-Catholic school children also during the sacramental prep years.**

### Attention 2nd Graders: First Eucharist Preparation 6466-2023

For all families in GIFT **and for those who are students at St. Matthias School who have (baptized) children who are in 2nd grade [fall 2022] or older** who desire to receive the **Sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Eucharist in 2023**, sacramental preparation is required through the parish-**you must register online**. Typically, classes are held for all children and at least one parent on certain Sunday mornings in the cafeteria or the St. John XXIII room [school building] and certain classrooms from 10:30AM -11:30AM. We are planning in person sessions for 2022-2023. Be sure to register early.

The sacramental preparation fee for this program is \$80. The 2022-2023 Registration for **First Eucharist/First Reconciliation are available online at <https://www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/>**  
**Questions?** Please email Dee Nann at [dnann@stmatthias.net](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net) or call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400.

### Attention 7th & 8th Graders: Confirmation Preparation 2022-2023

**Register for Confirmation Preparation as soon as possible!**

Families who have a **7th or 8th** grader **in either St. Matthias School or the GIFT program** and desire to have their child prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation need to visit <https://www.stmatthias.net/confirmation> for more details and to complete the **2022-2023 Confirmation registration form online**.

The fees for the program are noted on parish website page

A parent meeting for 7th grade parents will be held in **November for all registered 7<sup>th</sup> graders-or those in Year 1 of Confirmation Preparation** who may be a bit older. **Questions?** Please email Dee Nann at [dnann@stmatthias.net](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)

## Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 10 - Sept. 4, 2022	\$11,045.00	\$14,103.37	\$25,148.37	\$28,342.75
Week 11 - Sept. 11, 2022	\$12,713.00	\$28,515.22	\$41,228.22	\$31,745.25
Week 12 - Sept. 18, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,311.25
Week 13 - Sept. 25, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,623.53
			Month-to-date Total	Sept Total Last Yr
<b>Peter's Pence Collection:</b>	<b>\$2,918</b>		<b>\$66,376.59</b>	\$100,022.78
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Sep 30, 2020
			<b>\$286,276.14</b>	\$322,603.66



## Give (and Receive!)

### Stewardship Reflection Sep 18 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**No servant can serve two masters. He will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (wealth).” Luke 16:13**

Jesus knows that for many of us, God and money run “neck and neck” as top priority. Is money a “god” that you put before God? Giving money to support the Church and other charity is a pillar of our faith, just like attending Mass every Sunday and participating in parish ministry. Giving money frees us from becoming a slave to money. It increases our dependence on God and our trust that God will provide all that we need.

### Reflexiónese — 18 de septiembre de 2022 25º del Tiempo Ordinario

**“Ningún siervo puede servir a dos señores. Odiaría a uno y amaría al otro, o será devoto de uno y menospreciará al otro. Usted no puede servir a Dios y a la riqueza” Lucas 16:13**

Jesús sabe que, para muchos de nosotros, Dios y el dinero corren “cabeza a cabeza” por la máxima prioridad. ¿Es el dinero un “dios” que antepone a Dios? Dar dinero para apoyar a la Iglesia y otras obras de caridad es un pilar de nuestra fe, tal como lo es asistir a la Misa todos los domingos y participar en los ministerios de la parroquia. Donar dinero nos libera de convertirnos en esclavos del dinero. Aumenta nuestra dependencia de Dios y nuestra confianza en que Dios proveerá todo lo que necesitamos.

## Serve



### Saint Vincent DePaul – Advocate for the Poor and those in Need.

St. Vincent dePaul, whose feast day we celebrate on SEPTEMBER 27, born in France, and ordained a priest at the age of 19, encountered Jesus most powerfully among the sick, abandoned and hungry. He devoted his life to acts of charity, organizing groups to provide food and clothing for all who were poor, and founded the Congregation of Vincentians. He instructed his members to serve the poor as if they were serving Christ himself. His spiritual legacy continues in our own parish ministry by the members of our St. Vincent dePaul Society, who respond to many requests for assistance which come in through our hotline.

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent dePaul, a Catholic lay organization, is composed of women and men who seek their personal holiness through works of charity. The purpose of this Society is to fulfill the two great Commandments—love of God and love of neighbor. The heart of this ministry is revealed in the words of Jesus: “whatever you do for others you do for ME.”

Sr. Marie Therese

Two members of our St. Vincent dePaul Society share their experience of being a part of this ministry:

*I appreciate that the Saint Vincent dePaul Conference at Saint Matthias provides an active, organized process to help those in need. I am part of a team that listens to clients and can offer advice and most often financial assistance for their situation. It is both humbling and rewarding to be a part of the problem solving. Additionally, participating in Vincentian spirituality through group prayer and reflection is a very nourishing aspect of this ministry.* PEGGY JOYCE

*“I knew that I was being called to a ministry to work with the poor. What I didn’t know is how joining the ministry of the St. Vincent dePaul Society would change me. In serving so many people in need I have been able to connect with the love that our Lord has for those who have the very least in our society, but are so rich in faith in Him. If you are being called to assist in our work, or want to learn more about our ministry, go to our website at [SVPatSM.org](http://SVPatSM.org).”* BOB CHERILL



### 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.

**DATES: WEDNESDAYS: OCT. 19, 26, NOV. 2, 9, 16,  
TUESDAY, NOV. 22, Nov. 30**

**TIME: 7:00 PM-8:30 PM**

**PLACE: PARISH OFFICE DEPORRES ROOM (Parking is behind the parish office)**

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER: FRIDAY, OCT. 14**

**CONTACT SISTER MARIE THERESE: [msherwood@stmatthias.net](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)**

**SENIOR MINISTRY MEETING**

All senior parishioners are invited to gather for our first meeting since before COVID. We would like to use this time to reconnect through sharing prayer, looking ahead to possible events, and discussion of our main Topic: Pope Francis' Message: "The Richness of Many Years of Life"

**DATE:** SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15  
**PLACE:** SCHOOL CAFETERIA (Parking behind school, enter through back door of cafeteria)  
**TIME:** 9:30am (including refreshments)-11:30 am  
**For more information, contact: Sr. Marie Therese:**  
[msherwood@stmatthias.net](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)

**Racial Justice Initiative**



**Weekly Sessions**  
**Oct. 1 – Dec. 3**  
**(Excluding Nov 26)**  
**All sessions meeting virtually via Zoom 9 am – 11:30 am**  
**Plus in-person Immersion Experience (date TBD)**

Presented through the lens of the Christian faith, JustFaith Ministries' *Faith & Racial Healing: Embracing Truth, Justice and Restoration* is an eight-session program that guides participants in telling the truth about the history of racism in the United States, that we might work toward true reconciliation with God and restoration with one another. **For more details or to register, please email us at [matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com)**

**Local Community Connect**



**St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church Tricky Tray Auction, Oct. 7, 2022**

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, 1900 Brooks Boulevard, Hillsborough will present a TRICKY TRAY AUCTION on **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022**. Gift certificates and many prizes including flat screen TV, computer, Kindle, appliances, theme baskets, designer purses, and 50/50 will be available.

Doors open at 5:00 PM. Auction begins at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$20 which includes one sheet of tickets, door prize ticket, delicious desserts, coffee, tea and a goodie bag. Tickets can be purchased by contacting the rectory at 908 725 0615 or Marge at 908 722 5894. Must be 18 to attend. Ticket limit 250.

**Inspire Family Life Center**

Miles for Mothers 5K Fun-Run/Walk, **Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at Harry Dunham Park, Basking Ridge. 12pm-3pm.** Student Service Hours Provided. A day of family fun! Please check our website [www.InspireFamilyLifeCenter.com](http://www.InspireFamilyLifeCenter.com) for more details.



**Parish Leadership**

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b>	<b>Co-Secretaries:</b>	Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b>	Joe Porter
<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	Frank Rees	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio	Kester Hector, Chair	Joan Pritchard
Rose Peng, <a href="mailto:rosepeng@optonline.net">rosepeng@optonline.net</a>	Marilyn Wegg		<b>Finance Council</b>	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio
John Taylor, <a href="mailto:jptaylor1068@yahoo.com">jptaylor1068@yahoo.com</a>	Stephan Busono	<b>Trustees:</b>	<a href="mailto:@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a>	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
	Anne Marie Francis	Pearl Scott	Barry Dusault	
	Bill Isele	Marge Richards	Gwen Orłowski	
	Maria Tapia-Burch		Audrey Francis	

**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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**event dates**

Apply online prior to an event for on-the-spot interviews!

**October 2022**

Tuesday, 10/04

Tuesday, 10/11

Tuesday, 10/18

Tuesday, 10/25

**November 2022**

Tuesday, 11/01

Tuesday, 11/08

Tuesday, 11/15

Tuesday, 11/29

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