



St. Matthias Parish Office:
 Open 8:30-6:00PM Mon-Fri
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873,
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866,
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

St. Matthias School (SMS): open M –Thur
 9:00-1:00. 732-828-1402 or 1540. 170 JFK Blvd.,
 Somerset, NJ 08873 www.stmatthias.info

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)
 Kelly Counts, Receptionist, [kcounts](mailto:kcounts@stmatthias.net)
 Conroy Davis, Custodian
 Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian
 Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Editor, [lguillen](mailto:lguillen@stmatthias.net)
 Nathalie Godet, Formation/Parish Support
 Secretary, [ngodet](mailto:ngodet@stmatthias.net)
 Amy Hanna, Parish Support Secretary, [ahanna](mailto:ahanna@stmatthias.net)
 Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdemkovitz](mailto:rdemkovitz@stmatthias.net)
 Ana V Kelly, Pastoral Associate for Marketing &
 Development, [akelly](mailto:akelly@stmatthias.net)
 Mike Lanyi, Sacristan
 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)
 Phyllis Stone, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/
 RCIA & Admin. Assistant to the Pastor, [pstone](mailto:pstone@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, AUG 29, 2021 –

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Highlights—This Week

Interested in becoming a Catholic?

Join us for an RCIA Inquiry Session **TODAY** August 29th after 10:00AM Mass until 12:00PM, School Cafeteria

Novena for St. Joseph— Wednesday, Sept. 1st at 8:30AM after Mass

SMS Orientation begins Thurs., Sep 2. Please see calendar on pg. 2 for more information.



GIFT Registration —for K-8 Religious Ed
 For all children and at least 1 parent K-8th grade **NOT** attending a Catholic school.

Register online **NOW**, at www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation

Our **GIFT** program instruction will begin in the Church, followed by break-out sessions in individual classrooms. All current Covid 19 procedures will be followed. Masks are required. There will be no meals offered due to Covid restrictions. The sessions begin in Oct and continue monthly until Apr.

In-person monthly sessions for families will be offered at 6:30 PM on Tuesdays & Wednesdays, and at 2 PM on Sundays. **Please make this registration a priority as we need time to prepare well for all our families. Thanks so much, Dee Nann**
 See page 8 for more details.

“Jesus is our Teacher; Kindness is our Lesson” is the theme of our 2021-2022 school year. Enroll your children before school opens!

We do still have some openings available for the 2021-2022 school year for PreK 3, PreK 4, and Kindergarten through grade 8. Before School and After School programs are available. ALL are welcome!



Explore our website, www.stmatthias.info, and contact mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org to schedule an appointment.



If you shop on Amazon, please help us by starting at: www.stmatthias.net/Amazon

This Week at St. Matthias From the Pastor's Desk

- All Masses will be celebrated **in-person**.
- Masses will also be **livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)**

The Church is open for individual prayer Sun-Fri from 7:30 am to 7pm & Sat from 9 am to 7pm, unless another event is taking place (Mass, Funeral, Wedding, etc.)

Sunday, Aug 29, 2021

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA Inquiry Session	Cafeteria
12:00PM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	SMYLE Kick off Event	Outside behind school

Monday, Aug 30, 2021

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Miraculous Medal Novena	Church

Tuesday, Aug 31, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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Wednesday, Sep 1, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30AM	St. Joseph Intercession Prayer	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group-Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm

Thursday, Sep 2, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:00AM	SMS Gr.6-8 & Pre-K/K Orientation	School
8:00PM	K of C Mtg.	Cafeteria

Friday, Sep 3, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:00AM	SMS Gr. 1-5 Orientation	School
8:30AM	1st Friday Holy Hour	Church
7:00PM	Boy Scout Trp. 154 Mtg.	Cafeteria

Saturday, Sep 4, 2021

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

Sunday, Sep 5, 2021

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 12 Noon, **WEDNESDAY, 10 days before the intended issue** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.



Dear Friends,

Beware! Church Text Message Scam

Have you received a suspicious text or email from Fr. Abraham requesting that you purchase gift cards on their behalf or loan them money? If you have—or receive something similar in the future—know that these DID NOT come from him. Cyber scammers, who are targeting Catholic parishes and schools throughout the nation, are victimizing parishioners and parents. Perpetrators use various techniques to gain the trust of a victim and may provide specific instructions, which if followed, could result in monetary loss to the victim. Do not become a victim.

If you receive such texts or emails do the following:

- Take time to consider your actions before responding to suspicious text or email messages.
- Do not provide any personal information (i.e., credit / debit card numbers, Social Security numbers—or any part of them, checking account numbers, passwords, etc.), and be extremely cautious of immediate demands that you take action.
- If in doubt, call the Parish Office at St. Matthias to authenticate the message.
- Do not respond to any message if you doubt its origin; just delete it.

Fr. Abraham

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 11-13; Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday: Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44

Thursday: Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5, 6; Lk 5:1-11

Friday: Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 5:33-39

Saturday: Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8; Lk 6:1-5

Sunday: Is 35:4-7a; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Aug 28	5:00PM	Manfred Ganzer, by Patricia Stanley
Sunday, Aug 29	8:00AM	Annie Massimine, by The Grammatico Family
	10:00AM	Marlene & Tony Volpe, by Ed & Maria Santucci
	12:00PM	Skip Simons, by Patricia Stanley
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Aug 30	8:00AM	Spiritual Intention of Valdez 2 grandchildren, by Jaime & Alma Valdez
Tuesday, Aug 31	8:00AM	80th Birthday Thanksgiving Blessings– Augusto Santos, by The Family
Wednesday, Sep 1	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Irvin Mayfield, by Phyllis Stone
Thursday, Sep 2	8:00AM	Edgardo Ugaddan, by Mary Anjou
Friday, Sep 3	8:00AM	James D’heron, by Vincent & Nancy Inzano
Saturday, Sep 4	5:00PM	Craig Slyman, by Mom & Dad
Sunday, Sep 5	8:00AM	Jerry Connelly, by The Mazzeo Family
	10:00AM	Raymond Moran, Jr. by Judy & Ron Cerminaro
	12:00PM	Concetta & Luigi Mangiardo, by The Collier Family
	(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 kcounts@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.*

Lucille Albani
 Carolyn Banghart
 Maria Barreiro
 Virginia Briggs
 Marie Brody
 Thomas Burns
 Baby Isla-Rose Callahan
 Tara Capatosto
 Ellen & Frank Catalina
 Sean Clancy
 Barbara Coan
 Tom Current
 Joseph DeFrancesco
 Cenon DeGuzman
 Mary Ellen Delaney
 Alaina Derecola
 Surya & Juliany Dharma
 Nancy Diaz
 Jim Dolan

Mary Dolan
 William Dolphin
 Dorothy Domenici
 Josephine Geenty
 Claudia Gemgnani
 Emma Gergely
 Rose Gessner
 Mary Gidaro
 Jill Gordon-Szabo
 Sloopy Hoffman
 Kathleen Lagenbacher
 Al & Rose Larangeira
 William Lecorchick
 The Litrakis Family
 Al Maglio
 Sue Maglio-Alese
 Beatrice May
 Margaret Menendez
 Gail Miranda

Dave Moynihan
 Baby Ezran Natural
 Patricia Nese
 Danny Ochangco
 Maria Pennington
 Jim Pettit
 Christina Pietrowiak
 Oscar Poisler
 Kevin Reavey
 Chris Retz
 Ann Ritchick
 Angela Romanek
 Datius Rutashobya
 Rudy Schaar
 Maria Schwenger
 Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
 Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
 Catherine Sloomaker
 Encarnacion (Gina) So

Alessandro Spagnolo
 Dennis Stuewe
 Jeff Tami
 Madeline Tarantino
 Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth
 Eulalia Villanueva
 Judi Wojna
 Mark T. Worthington

Everyone who is ill with Covid-19
 ...and for all who are homebound,
 elderly, in nursing care, or living with
 chronic illness

Pray for those who have died...

—“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Dolores Pleconis—Mother of Richard



Be Doers of the Word.

The letter of Saint James has only 5 short chapters so we do not hear it proclaimed much at our Sunday liturgy. But this Sunday, August 29th, we have a very powerful and central message from the letter of Saint James. He tells us "Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves." (James 1:21-22)

These lines were among the favorite lines from all of scripture for a classmate of mine in the seminary. His constant mantra was "Action with the love of Christ in your heart". He repeated these words so frequently that he got the nickname "Action". Fellow students and professors alike called him "Action".

Saint Ignatius of Loyola wrote in his Spiritual Exercises "Love ought to show itself in deeds even more than in words". All Christians are called to contemplate the Word of God but we are also called to incarnate the Word in our daily lives by "doing" God's word. And "doing" God's word can be in the smallest of actions or in major works. Mother Teresa

of Calcutta said "there is no such thing as a small act of love". And she and her community demonstrated this and continue to do this every day in their service to the poor and hungry. "Anyone who gives a cup of water to drink, because you belong to Christ, amen. I say to you, will not lose his reward" (Mark 9:11).

We are called to welcome the Word of God and to accept the challenge of putting it into action every day. This we do through prayer, participation in the Eucharist and the other sacraments, and constantly imploring the Holy Spirit to bring that Word to fruition in our lives. Saint James specifically calls us to care "for orphans and widows in their affliction and keeping oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:27) the orphans and widows may have changed since that time but the needs and opportunities to live the Word have not changed.

My classmate was right on, when he said we need "Action with the love of Christ in our hearts. Let us seek to be doers of the word every day.

Msgr. Brennan

Reflect



Smile With Your Family —



The little boy wasn't getting good marks in school. One day he made the teacher quite surprised. He tapped her on the shoulder and said ..."I don't want to scare you, but my daddy says if I don't get better grades, somebody is going to get a spanking." 😊

Teacher: You missed school yesterday, didn't you? Student: Not very much 😊

Wonder at these?

◇ Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being

would eat?

◇ Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? Also, why does Goofy talk while Pluto cannot? They're both dogs!

◇ If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

◇ Do the Alphabet Song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

◇ Why did you just try singing the two songs above?

"I Don't Smoke During Lent!"

About 2 o'clock on a cold, blustery morning the rectory telephone rang. "I think grandpa is dying," an excited voice declared. As it was just two blocks away Fr. Murray decided to walk to anoint the dying man. As he passed an alley a figure with a gun stepped out and demanded: "Give me your money." The priest told the gunman: "My wallet is in the pocket of my coat. As the priest opened his coat the gunman noticed his Roman collar. He said: "I am sorry, I didn't know that you are a priest." I beg your pardon Father, keep your

money." In grateful relief Fr. Murray offered him a cigar. But the fellow shook his head saying, "No Father, thank you very much, but I don't smoke during Lent."



In today's gospel Jesus calls such blind observance of rules and tradition, hypocrisy.

A Better Neighborhood than you Think...

"... The things that come out from within are what defile."

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

She was driving home late one rainy evening; her kids were asleep in the back seat. When she exited the highway and was approaching her street, she saw a car stalled on the side of the road. The hood was up, the car's flashers were on and a man was bent over the engine. A few feet away, a young woman held an infant in her arms and a toddler clung to her legs, shivering. She pulled over and asked if she could help or call someone.



The man looked to his wife, whose eyes were wide with fear, and then focused his attention back on the car.

"No, thank you," he said tersely. "My brother will be here soon." "Well, you can at least use a little more light," she said as she opened her trunk and offered a flashlight to the man. She turned to his wife and said: "Please, sit in the car. I've got the heat on. You'll be more comfortable there." After some gentle coaxing, the woman agreed. The woman seemed to be almost afraid of her. To try to put the woman at ease, she pointed out her house that was just down the road. After a while, the brother arrived and helped the husband get the engine running again. The wife looked at her for the first time and quietly thanked her.

A few days later there was a knock on her door. It was the young mother standing on the porch holding a bouquet of flowers and a tray of cookies. "To thank you for your help the other night," the woman said. She invited the woman in and made coffee. "I wanted to apologize to you for the other night," the woman began. "You were kind to stop and help and we treated you as if you were a criminal. We're new to the area, and everyone had warned us that this neighborhood was in the 'bad part of town.' When you came along, we didn't know if we could trust you. But your kindness made us feel safe for the first time in our new home."

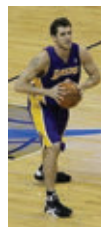
The good within one woman's heart changes the less-than-good "outside" of her. Her offer of help transforms a family's fear of their new environs in a "bad part of town" to a place of welcome. The kind of human being we are begins in the values of the heart, the place where God dwells within - but the evil we are capable of, the hurt we inflict on others, the degrading of the world that God created also begins "within," when God is displaced by selfishness, fear, anger, hatred. May God instill in us his spirit of compassion and justice, enabling us to transform the "bad parts" of the world outside of us into the "good" of God's Kingdom that begins within each of us.

Not Willing to Break Sabbath. But...

Dr. Laura Schlessinger, a psychologist, is appalled by the culture of moral relativism that has pervaded our society. In her book, *How Could You Do That?* Dr. Laura tells of a call from a young woman who was living with her fiancé. The young woman's future mother-in-law was insisting that the woman and her son move closer to her home. What was the problem with that? The young woman claimed to be an Orthodox Jew, and she complained that if she moved closer to her future mother-in-law's home, then she would be too far away from the synagogue. Instead of walking to Sabbath services, she would then have to drive, which would be breaking the Sabbath law. Dr. Laura couldn't get the young woman to understand the inconsistency between observing one tenet of her faith--honoring the Sabbath--but not caring if she violated another--the prohibition against living with her fiancé out of wedlock. It's not unusual for people to espouse one thing and to do something entirely different.



The first reading explains that religion is a Covenant relationship with a caring, providing and protecting God, fostered by keeping His Commandments given through Moses. God gave Israel the Law so that the Israelites might keep their Covenant with Yahweh and thank Him for His love and fidelity to His Chosen People. The Law was also intended to keep them a united, holy and intelligent nation proud of their powerful, protective, single God.



Move from Lips to Heart

In 1974, the top college basketball player in the country was a young man by the name of Bill Walton. At six foot eleven, he dominated college basketball. He took his team, UCLA, to their third consecutive NCAA championship, and in his senior year went on to the NBA. Bill had some adjustments to make in the NBA, and he didn't make them very well. Then abruptly he left the game. He said his heart was no longer in his playing. After some time went by, Bill Walton came back. This time his heart was in his game, and he played like it. He led the Portland Trailblazers to their first NBA championship. Then he moved on to the Boston Celtics. Then he became a television basketball announcer. It makes all the difference in the world if your heart is in what you're doing! A lot of us are trying to live our lives with our hearts in nothing or, we should say, with nothing in our hearts. We have Christ on our lips, but He's never made that journey further down. That's why we are bored. How do we move Christ from our lips to our hearts? That is the question which today's Gospel asks us.

Mother Teresa vs Princess Diana



Princess Diana captured the imagination of the world. When she married in 1981 (700 million watched it in TV), and when she met with a tragic death on August 31, 1997 her funeral was watched



by 2.5 billion people on TV. So, it would not be surprising if, on August 31, 2021 media made mention of the anniversary of her passing. It is only fitting if the media will speak about the many good things that she did, in particular the many charitable causes she tirelessly worked for.

But will the media also recall that someone else who died the same year as Princess Diana, a little nun in Calcutta known to the world as Mother Teresa? It has been said that Mother Teresa chose the wrong week to die, overshadowed by the death of the young princess. But maybe that's the way it should be. Nothing could better reflect how warped the values of the world are.

Mother Teresa wasn't accompanied by a billionaire playboy when she passed from this life to the celestial kingdom. She wasn't being driven in a high-speed luxury car. She lived and died serving the least and the lowest. She lived and died glorifying God and serving her neighbor. There's nothing wrong with little girls aspiring to grow up to be princesses. How much better, though, if all of us aspired to be more like Mother Teresa! There's nothing wrong with pomp and circumstance. There's even nothing wrong with ceremonies linked to the washing of hands, even though doctors say a little dirt is good for you, unless the ceremony of washing hands causes you to look down on those who don't observe such ceremonies, or unless you have clean hands but an impure heart.

A Bowing Tradition, but didn't know why!!

Years ago Harry Emerson Fosdick told about a church in Denmark where the worshipers bowed regularly before a certain spot on the wall. They had been doing that for three centuries -- bowing at that one spot in the sanctuary. Nobody could remember why. One day in renovating the church, they removed some of the whitewash on the walls.



At the exact spot where the people bowed they found the image of the Madonna under the whitewash. People had become so accustomed to bowing before that image that even after it was covered up for three centuries, people still bowed. Tradition is a powerful thing. The Pharisees had learned to substitute tradition, custom, habit for the presence of the living God. Jaroslav Pelikan once said,

"Tradition is the living Faith of the dead. Traditionalism is the dead faith of the living." Traditionalism rears its head in many ways, in many times and in many places.

We need to understand why we do what we do. We need to keep the spirit of the Church's laws and practices. For example our Sunday obligation is intended to allow us to worship God in the parish community, to offer our lives to God, to ask His pardon for our sins, to thank God for His blessings, to present our needs before Him and to receive Divine Life and strength from Him in receiving Holy Communion. Our daily family prayers are meant to thank God for His blessings, to present the family's needs before God, to ask pardon for all our sins, and to maintain the spirit of unity and love in the family. Do we do these consciously?

We're being Watched

In many cities, we will get a ticket for speeding by mail, because photo radar vans sit beneath freeway underpasses snapping our picture as we speed by and the gun records our speed while the camera focuses on our license plate. Video cameras are popping up everywhere, like virtual watching eyes. School districts are installing cameras in school buses to document for unbelieving parents how their children behave. YMCAs have mounted security cameras everywhere. Banks and businesses monitor the movements of suspected criminals and shop-lifters. With Webcams positioned strategically throughout the child-care center, parents can log on to the Internet to see what's happening with their babies. Buzzing along benignly through clear American skies, the Recon Spy Plane has a hidden, remote-controlled camera that can be activated from up to

1,000 feet away. All these are meant to force citizens to behave well.



But we conveniently forget the truth that God has an all-seeing "Holycam" perched inside our souls enabling Him to see what is in our hearts and minds. We may get away with appearance-based virtual morality in society, fooling civil authorities, friends, spouse or children. But Jesus gives us a strong warning in today's Gospel: "Nothing that enters from outside can defile a person; but the things that come out from within are what defile" (Mark 7:15). Jesus is cautioning us not to be like some Pharisees who passed themselves off as pious, always performing the correct rites and keeping tradition-based observances, but whose inner lives were polluted with the stench of the graveyard.

"Oh yes, I believe in God, but I'm not nuts about Him!"

A young coed being interviewed on television about her religious beliefs said, "Oh yes, I believe in God, but I'm not nuts about Him." According to the Gallup Poll that is a good description of how most Americans feel about God. Ninety-four percent of us believe in God. When it comes to translating that belief into action, however, most of us are clearly not nuts about Him. We have something in common with the Pharisees. Jesus once summed up the Pharisees' chief problem like this: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." There is a group kin to the traditionalists that we might call Christian Secularists. This group is made up of that host of nominally committed people who fill the rolls of most churches. They bring their children to Sunday School. They use the Church to marry and bury. They visit us at Christmas and at Easter. They are not atheists or agnostics. They, like that young coed, believe in God, but they're not nuts about him. Today's Gospel is Christ's view about such followers.

Let us avoid the tendency to become cafeteria Christians:

As the Pharisees did, we too show the tendency to add to or subtract from God's laws given in the Bible and taught by the Church. Some of us pick and choose certain Commandments to follow, ignoring the others as we do food offerings in a cafeteria. For example some actively do corporal and spiritual works of Charity, but avoid Sunday Mass or remain unfaithful to the obligations attached to the gift of their sexuality or the sacrament of marriage. Others are interested in fulfilling only the "minimal obligations" of the Faith. They come to Mass late and leave early. They make an effort to avoid serious sins, but don't go to confession even when they fall into mortal sins.

The Great Potato Famine in Ireland

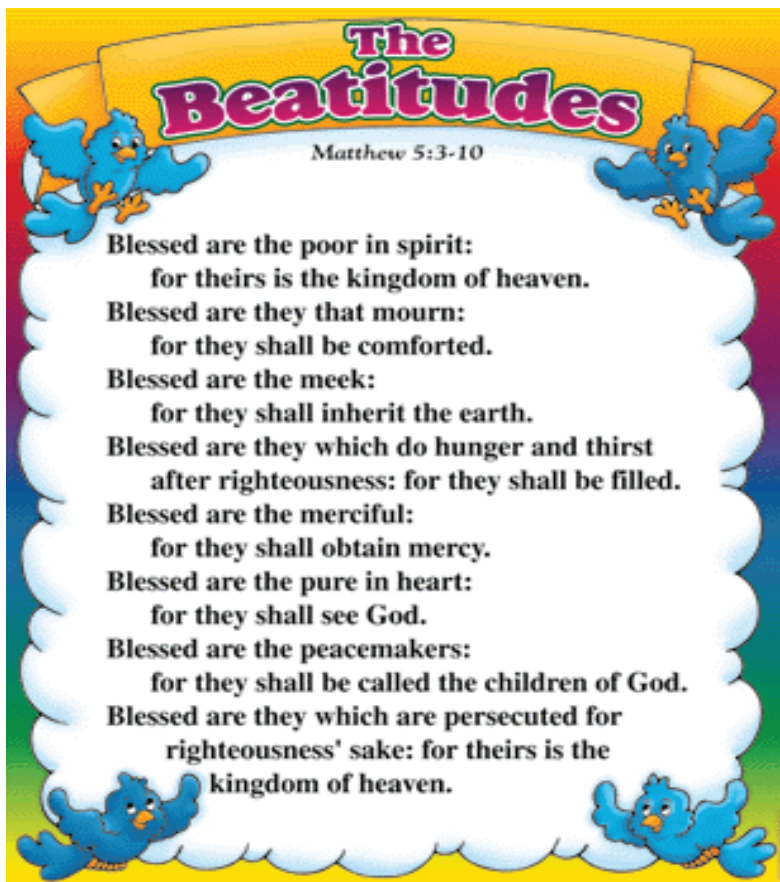
Between 1845 and 1849, the Great Potato Famine cruelly tortured Ireland and was responsible for the slow starvation and deaths of tens of thousands of Irish men, women and children. The blight that struck the beloved potato, the staple crop of the tenant farmers, was a blight called *phytophthora infestans*. As the disease decimated

the potato crop, it assured bare tables and empty stomachs for millions of working

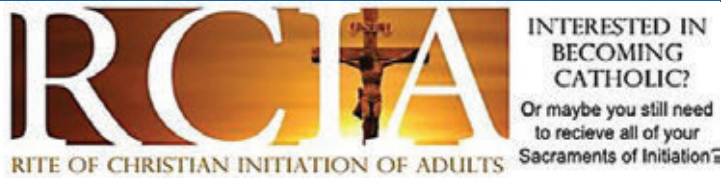


families who depended on the potato for the filling, nourishing part of their daily diet. What was particularly cruel about this potato blight was that it left the tubers looking unscathed on the outside. The vegetables appeared large, firm, and hearty. But when cut open the potato revealed the blight had consumed it from the inside. The potato would be rotten, hollowed, soft and stinking from the center out to within a half inch of its outer skin. What had looked promising as a meal couldn't even produce a mouthful of unrotted pulp flesh.

The potatoes rotted from the inside out. This is exactly what the Bible means when it talks about original sin. We all have this blight in our being that rots us from the inside out. So even if we look great on the outside, and even if we tithe our lottery earnings and put lots of people to work, our hidden hungers and deep desires within are our true selves. Paul the Apostle said "the good that I would, I do not, and the evil that I would not, I do." We all stand as lepers, ritually unclean, standing in the need of grace and prayer.



Pray



Novena for Saint Joseph

We will be praying a novena to St. Joseph on the **first Wednesday of the month** until the end of this year. It is at **8:30AM**, after the 8:00 AM Mass. Please join us in praying the novena prayer, **this Wed., Sept. 1.**

Join us for an RCIA Inquiry Session

TODAY August 29th after 10:00AM Mass until 12:00PM
School Cafeteria

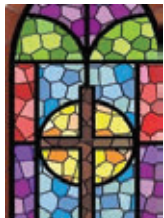
Calling All Ministry Leaders!

St. Matthias Parish Pastoral Council is inviting all the leaders of the different parish ministries/associations/committees for an evening of sharing about the goals and activities of our different ministries.



Five ministries (**Finance, Bereavement, SVDPS, SMDPS and Pro-Life**) will give brief presentations at the first of these sessions that will be held via zoom on **Tuesday evening, 7 pm September 14.** The zoom link will be sent to all the Ministry leaders.

Learn



First Eucharist Preparation for ALL 2nd grade Families (GIFT+SMS)

Register online **NOW**, at
www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation

In-person sessions will be held on certain Sunday mornings, 10:30-11:30 AM, for the 2nd graders with at least one parent.



Confirmation Preparation

for ALL 7th & 8th graders
(GIFT & SMS)

Register online **NOW**, at
www.stmatthias.net/confirmation

A 7th grade parent meeting will be held in November. 8th Graders already registered simply update any family changes e.g. emails, addresses by registering again.



GIFT Registration — for K-8 Religious Ed

for all children, K-8th
grade not attending a
Catholic school.

Register online **NOW**, at
www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation

In-person monthly sessions for families will be offered at 6:30 PM on Tuesdays & Wednesdays, and at 2 PM on Sundays. No meals this year due to Covid.

Questions? Please email Dee Nann at dnann@stmatthias.net



Our Next Level Delegates

Attached pictures include all our Next Level Delegates- Emily Chavez, Melody Adamski, Michael Trovato, Brandon Barbarite, Isabella Fama-Lin, and James Nonailhada- seek of service, reflecting, meeting other NL kids from other parishes! Also includes Deacon John and Arien Yeddapally who served as leaders/facilitators.

These pics were posted on Center for Faith Justice FB page.



Thank You!

We continue to bless Promethean Boards that were sponsored by individuals and families. Thank you to all of our donors!



Board donated by Ethel Kellahan and Vinnie Natale.



Board donated by Marty Collins.

Stewardship Reflection Aug 29, 2021 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**“Be doers of the word and not hearers only...”
JAMES 1:22**

It’s easy to understand the definition of stewardship – living a grateful and generous life. The hard part is doing it! How do your actions reflect God’s word? Do you share your time in prayer with God? Do you use your talent to help those in need? Are you generous with your financial resources? If not, what are you waiting for?

Reflexiónese — 29 de agosto de 2021 Domingo 22° del Tiempo Ordinario

“No solo escuchen la palabra de Dios; tienen que ponerla en práctica”... SANTIAGO 1:22

Es fácil comprender la definición de corresponsabilidad -vivir una vida agradecida y generosa. ¡La parte difícil es hacerlo! ¿Cómo reflejan sus acciones la palabra de Dios? ¿Comparte su tiempo en oración con Dios? ¿Usa sus talentos para ayudar a aquellos que lo necesitan? ¿Es usted generoso con sus recursos financieros? Si no es así, ¿que está esperando?

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 5 - August 1, 2021	\$11,320.00	\$10,197.25	\$21,517.25	\$20,250.70
Week 6 - August 8, 2021	\$8,445.90	\$24,483.75	\$32,929.65	\$21,258.75
Week 7 - August 15, 2021	\$8,548.24	\$17,378.75	\$25,926.99	\$27,441.80
Week 8 - August 22, 2021	\$10,874.55	\$14,474.25	\$25,348.80	\$21,636.70
Week 9 - August 29, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,117.70
			Month-to-date Total	Aug Total Last
			\$105,722.69	\$111,705.65
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as
			\$206,299.13	\$203,847.42

Getting Ready for Back-to-School Shopping? Will you be doing any shopping on Amazon?

If so, please start your Amazon shopping by clicking on the link at:
www.stmatthias.net/amazon

A portion of your purchases will be donated to St. Matthias, at no cost to you. Thank you!



Serve



Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Aug 29, 2021

Pope Francis in "Gaudete et Exsultate" on the call to holiness in today's world says:

"The Father's plan is Christ, and ourselves in him. In the end, it is Christ who loves in us, for 'holiness is nothing other than charity lived to the full'. As a result, 'the measure of our holiness stems from the stature that Christ achieves in us, to the extent that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we model our whole life on his'. Every saint is a message which the Holy Spirit takes from the riches of Jesus Christ and gives to his people." May we always strive to emulate Christ in our daily lives on our path to holiness. We can spiritually commit to share our love and blessings generously, honestly and unconditionally even with others outside of our comfort zone.

** New Job Opening **

St. Matthias School is in need of a bookkeeper/office assistant. This is a part-time position, Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm. If you are interested, please call Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator, at (732) 828-1400 ext 121, mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net

Local Community

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In God's Image, Faith-Sharing Group Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield

In God's Image, the Catholic Faith Sharing Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM. **Our next meeting is September 8 and will be both in person and online.** Please email for more information. The group is open to LGBTQ adults, 18 and over, and their families. All are welcome for faith sharing, prayer, conversation and support. For more information, contact Fr John at 908 756 0633, ext 125 or the group may be reached by contacting 908 822 5895 or by emailing sacredheartigi@gmail.com.

You have made us for Yourself, Oh God, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Rose Peng
Frank Rees

Co-Chairs:

Claudine Langrin
Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell

Co-Secretaries:

Lorraine Farr
Anne Marie Francis

Trustees:

Isaac Peng
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter, Chair
FinanceCouncil
@stmatthias.net

Susan Klimcsak
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orłowski

Audrey Francis
Kester Hector
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, 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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