



**St. Matthias Parish Office:**

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

**Mass Schedule (in person):**

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

**St. Matthias School (SMS):**

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info) 732-828-1402  
**School Office Hours**, Monday - Friday,  
7:45 AM - 3:30 PM

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

**Pastor:** Rev Abraham Orapankal, Abraham  
Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Parochial Vicar **lmcgrath**  
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator  
**mpburke-grospin**

Deacon Ron Caimi, Senior Deacon  
Kelly Counts, Receptionist, **kcounts**  
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**  
Nathalie Godet, Website & Bulletin Editor,  
**ngodet**

Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Coordinator, **lguillen**  
Amy Hanna, Accountant/Databases, **ahanna**  
Mike Lanyi, Sacristan

Sue Lenczewski, Youth Coordinator, **SMYLE**  
Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor  
Dolores R. Nann, Pastoral Associate for  
Faith Formation, **dnann**

Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper, **vnatale**  
Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper

Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**  
Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for  
Music Ministry, **jseamon**

Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Pastoral  
Assoc. for Social Concerns, **msherwood**

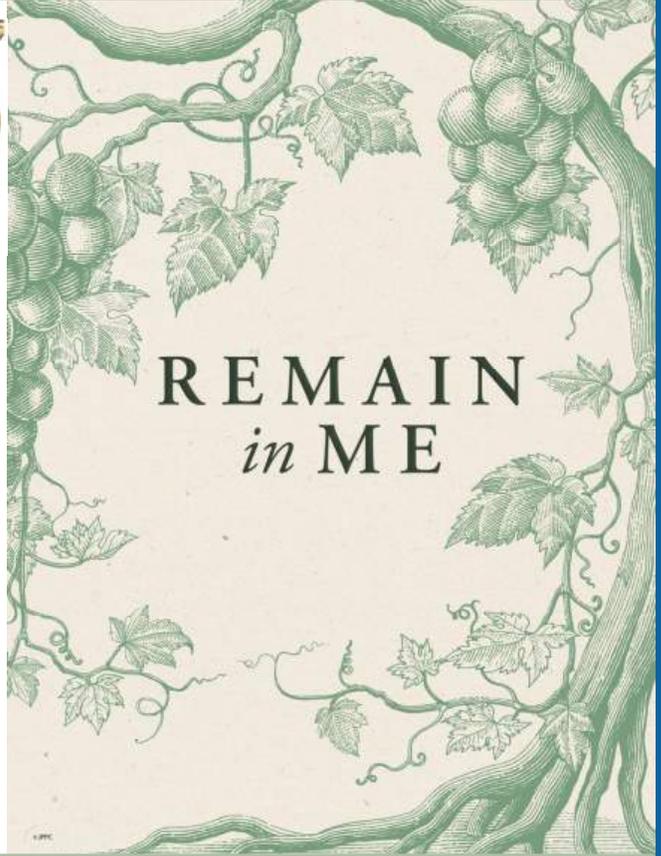
**St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)**

Mary Lynch, Principal, **mlynch**

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024**  
5th Sunday of Easter



**Today's  
Second  
Collection  
is for  
Catholic  
Relief  
Services**



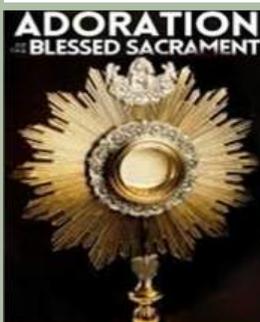
**REMAIN  
in ME**



**De Colores!**

The most recent **Cursillo Women's Retreat** was held on **April 11-14, 2024**. Women from our parish as well as other parishes in our diocese attended this amazing retreat.

For testimony and information regarding future Cursillo's, including a Men's Retreat see page 9.



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY  
WHO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE  
EUCHARISTIC LORD.**

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE  
MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 29, 2024  
FROM  
6 PM TO 8 PM.**

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

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

**Sunday, Apr 28, 2024 5th Sunday of Easter  
 Catholic Relief Services Collection**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass –Sign Language Interpreter	Church
10:00AM	Small Group Live Lent Gathering	St. John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	SMYLE Youth Grp	Cafeteria

**Monday, Apr 29, 2024 St. Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Sight & Sound Team Mtg.	Zoom
6:00PM	Eucharist Adoration	Church

**Tuesday, Apr 30, 2024 St. Pius V, Pope**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:30PM	Handbell Choir rehearsal	Church

**Wednesday, May 1, 2024 St. Joseph the Worker, Patron of Laborers & Workers**

8:00AM	Mass, St. Joseph Novena	Church
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

**Thursday, May 2, 2024 St. Athanasius of Alexandria, Bishop & Doctor**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	Children's Choir Rehearsal gr. 3&4	Church
4:00PM	Children's Choir Rehearsal gr. 5-8	Church
4:00PM	Confirmation	Church
7:30PM	Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal	Church

**Friday, May 3, 2024 St. Philip & St. James, Apostles**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	1st Friday Holy Hour w/Benediction	Church
10:30AM	Spring Hills Mass	at Facility

**Saturday, May 4, 2024 St. Florian, Martyr– Patron of Firefighters**

**National Nurses Day**

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

**Sunday, May 5, 2024 6th Sunday of Easter  
 Development of the People Collection**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Society Mtg.	St. John XXIII
12:00PM	Mass	Church

**Cinco de Mayo**

**Bulletin Article Requests:**

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



Dear Friends,

**I wish to highlight two feasts we keep this week. Tomorrow, April 29, is the feast of St. Catherine of Siena, a very fascinating figure in church history for many reasons.** When we realize that Christian theology has been largely shaped by men, her contribution to theology is very significant. No wonder that the Church not only canonized her but also declared her as one of the few women doctors of the church.

Catherine was a Dominican Tertiary, living in the 14th century in Siena, Italy. The corruption in the church and in the society during her day caused her great distress. She loved both but speaking truth to those in power was one of her great gifts. Catherine was passionate for the reform of the church and did not hesitate to challenge the church and she did bring about reform in the church. How did she do it when she did not even have much formal education?

The answer is her deep mystical spirituality. She knew Jesus on a personal and intimate level. Her interior life was so aligned with the divine that she was able to speak the truth of God to anyone – no matter how high that person was in the ecclesiastical or political ladder. Thus she was bold enough to instruct popes and cardinals, as well as adjudicate quarrels among statesmen.

“No more simony, no more unbridled luxuries, no more dealers in blood, no more swindlers in what ought to be the temple of God,” St. Catherine wrote to Pope Urban. After meeting with Catherine in Florence, Pope Urban, in his pomp and worldliness, turned to his advisors in amazement. “This little woman confounds us,” he said. “For while we are afraid, she stands without fear, and by her persuasions, she gives us courage”. Catherine inspired confidence in the pope by reminding him of his vocation. When writing to Pope Gregory IX during the infamous Avignon crisis, she called him out on a private vow he had made to return the papacy to Rome.

These vignettes from her life show us her radical witnessing to the prophetic message of the Gospel. If you can read her biography, the details will amaze you. She is model to all of us and an honor to all women in particular.

**This week we enter the month of May with the feast of “St Joseph, the Worker.”** Human labor is one of the important means of achieving holiness. It was Pope Pius XII who instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955, in order to foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the “May Day” celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists. This feast extends the long relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers in both Catholic faith and devotion. Beginning in the Book of Genesis, the dignity of human work has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God. By work, humankind both fulfills the command found in Genesis to care for the earth (Gen 2:15) and to be productive in their labors. Saint Joseph, the carpenter and foster father of Jesus, is but one example of the holiness of human labor. Without the spiritual element of work, we will succumb to its drudgery, and consider our labors as toil. But when we order our work to praise God, we experience, in some way, the joy and blessedness of labor which Adam experienced in the Garden of Eden.

Your brother in Christ,  
 Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday** Acts 14:5-18 Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16  
Jn 14:21-26

**Tuesday** Acts 14:19-28 Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab,  
21 Jn 14:27-31a

**Wednesday** Acts 15:1-6 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab,  
4cd-5 Jn 15:1-8

**Thursday** Acts 15:7-21 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10  
Jn 15:9-11

**Friday** 1 Cor 15:1-8 Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 Jn 14:6-14

**Saturday** Acts 16:1-10 Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5  
Jn 15:18-21

**Sunday** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 Ps 98:1,  
2-3, 3-4 1 Jn 4:7-10 Jn 15:9-17



## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, April 27</b>	5:00PM	Jose & Leonor Calimlim, by The Family
<b>Sunday, April 28</b>	8:00AM	Angela Frigiola, by Loving Family & Friends
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Health & Blessings for Stacy Brooks, by Nathalie Godet
	<b>Monday, April 29</b>	8:00AM
<b>Tuesday, April 30</b>	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Anne Marie Francis, by Karen & Patrick
<b>Wednesday, May 1</b>	8:00AM	Marion Fischer, by Family
<b>Thursday, May 2</b>	8:00AM	John Petrine, by Mary & children
<b>Friday, May 3</b>	8:00AM	Gil Ossandon, by Ellin
<b>Saturday, May 4</b>	5:00PM	Marty Slyman, by Al & Linda Misuraca
<b>Sunday, May 5</b>	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Oscar Poisler, by The Telyczka Family
	12:00PM	Erlina Liem & Tita Rahayu Disposunarjo, by Sukendro Family

## Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at [kcunts@stmatthias.net](mailto:kcunts@stmatthias.net) to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for **6 weeks**. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers.

**New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.**

Beth & Jay Adams	Vivian Dong	Amanda Isele	Alexandra Marquez	Maria Schwenzer
Rosario Anglo	Sanora Doyen	Baby Elaine Isele	Christine Matthews	Amy Shepp
Kristin Baio	Andrea Dubuisson	Nick Isele	Ann McElwee	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Olga Marie Bando	Dennis Enright	Renée Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick	Sr. Bernadine Marie Stemnock
Carolyn Banghart	Hattie Evans	Donna Kahora	Gail Miranda	Catherine Steele
Brandon Barbarite	Heinley Gaspard	Betsy Kondrat	Menchie Molano- Sotelo	Anita Vance
Ghislaine Baron	Claudia Gemgnani	Kathy Langenbacher	Danny Ongchango	Eileen Weber
Helen Bell	Emma Gergely	Rose Larangeira	Robert Pellegrino	Nancy Whelan
Samantha Bellouny	Claude Godet	Armando D. Liban	Robert Pietrowiak	Theresa Sau-Ling Yung
Carmen Bender	Marie Godet	Mary Lou Litrakis	Randolff Pinard	Ginette Zamor
Mary Bostrom	Shelly Greene	John Litrakis	Valerie Polci	Anne Zando
Tara Capatosto	Linda Hartong	Denis Loboda	Kim Price	
Elizabeth Card	Jeff Hentz	Aries Magali	Denise Pultro	<b>And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.</b>
Rustico Castellano, Jr.	Sloopy & PJ Hoffman	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Gabriel Rivera	
Kyle Davidson	Gene Horan	Al Maglio	Arina Robinson	
Lisa DeFeo	Marilyn Horvath	Susan, King & Tosh	Bob Rotz	
Zenon DeGuzman	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Manansala		

## Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." *Chronicles*

# Reflect



## Smile with Your Family



**Signs In Foreign Lands:** Those of you who may be planning summer travel, please remember that people in other countries sometimes go out of their way to communicate with their English-speaking tourists. Here is a list of signs seen around the world 😊

At a Budapest zoo: PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE ANIMALS. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUITABLE FOOD, GIVE IT TO THE GUARD ON DUTY. 😊

At a Bar door in India: OUR BAR IS PRESENTLY NOT OPEN BECAUSE IT IS CLOSED 😊

At a zoo in India: THOSE WHO THROW OBJECTS AT THE CROCODILES WILL BE ASKED TO RETRIEVE THEM 😊

Information booklet about using a hotel air conditioner, Japan: COOLES AND HEATES: IF YOU WANT CONDITION OF WARM AIR IN YOUR ROOM, PLEASE CONTROL YOURSELF.

In a Nairobi restaurant: CUSTOMERS WHO FIND OUR WAITRESSES RUDE OUGHT TO SEE THE MANAGER. 😊

On Athi River highway, Kenya: TAKE NOTICE: WHEN THIS SIGN IS UNDER WATER, THIS ROAD IS IMPASSABLE. 😊

In a City restaurant: OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, AND WEEKENDS TOO. 😊

In a Pumwani maternity ward, Nairobi: NO CHILDREN ALLOWED. 😊

In a cemetery: PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING FLOWERS FROM ANY BUT THEIR OWN GRAVES. 😊

At a store front: IF IT'S IN STOCK, WE HAVE IT 😊

Note from the Psychics Group: PSYCHIC FAIR CANCELLED DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

Do you really listen to your child? Of course you do. Now be honest. Do you sometimes "listen with your answer running"? Today, just for today, pay attention to a request your child makes and look for the reason behind the request before automatically saying, "No."

### Marriage Tune-Up

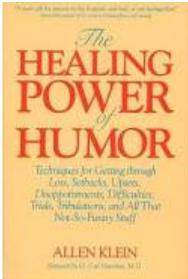


When your hobbies differ and compete, does your spouse get stuck with the burden of extra chores, childcare, or unwanted alone time as a result of your recreation? Does your hobby take a lot more time than your spouse's? If not, rejoice.

### "Presbyterian, but Disconnected!"

Some years ago, in the city of Belfast in Northern Ireland, the members of one of the large Presbyterian churches decided to undertake a religious census among some 2000 homes in their district. When the results were in, the pastor of the Church found himself seated at his desk, confronted with a huge heap of reports, and he began to note the visitors' findings and especially any comments made by the visitors at the bottom of the page. One remark that occurred again and again was, "Used to be a Presbyterian; now belong nowhere." Or, "The children go to Sunday school, but the parents aren't interested." And then his eyes fell on one unusual comment at the foot of one of the pages which startled him. It read simply, "Presbyterian, but disconnected." "Disconnected." That's a fascinating word. It sounds as though somebody had pulled the plug on the poor chap. Or perhaps he had pulled the plug on himself, thereby committing spiritual suicide. No longer was he connected up with the Church in which he was raised, for that matter.

**This is true not only of Presbyterian Churches but also of Catholic Church. Studies conducted by CARA (Center for Applied Research in Apostolate) of national sample of young people, ages 15 to 25, who had been raised Catholic but no longer self-identified as such report that nearly two-thirds of those surveyed, 63 percent, said they stopped being Catholic between the ages of 10 and 17. Half of the young former Catholics self-identify today as atheists, agnostics or those without a religious affiliation. This is sad because God created us to be connected up with one another. God intended for us to be in communion with God and with one another. The New Testament knows of no such thing as solitary Christianity. To be a Christian at all is to be in relationship with other Christians. Anyone and everyone who belongs to Jesus Christ automatically belongs to anyone and everyone else who belongs to Jesus Christ. | I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)**



## Connection in High Places!

Gerald Coffee, a retired Navy Captain, was a prisoner of war for seven years. His home was a cell that allowed him to take only three steps in any direction. Still, during these years of unbelievable hardship, he was able to pray, "God, help me use this time to get better." He took a dismal situation and used it for a time of mental, emotional and spiritual growth. In spite of being able to communicate with his fellow POWs only by tapping on the cell walls, he along with other prisoners managed to learn French. He learned to recite Kipling and Shakespeare. Most amazing of all, Coffee and his fellow prisoners were able to keep their sense of humor. Often he composed poems to keep himself amused. One that he particularly liked went, "Little weevil in my bread, I think I've just bit off your head." Later in his life Captain Coffee addressed major corporations on the subject of keeping your Faith (and sense of humor) during difficult times. He shared his harrowing experience in order to inspire others. [Allen Klein, *The Healing Power of Humor* (Los Angeles, California: Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc., 1989).]

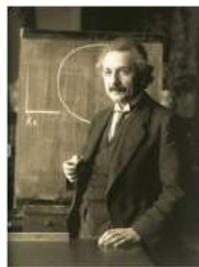
***Gerald Coffee's captors could not know he had "connections in high places"! Gerald Coffee is connected to the Vine which is Christ. And that is the difference in life. Christ is the Vine. We draw our Life from him. He is the Vine. We are the branches. It is He who links us to one another. We not only have connections in high places. We also have connections in low places and places in between. We are connected to one another as branches linked to the vine of Christ.***

## Shadow of the Hawk

There is a scene in the movie *Shadow of the Hawk* where a young couple is climbing a mountain with the help of their Indian guide in a desperate attempt to flee from evil people. At one point the young woman slumps to the ground and says, "I can't take another step." The young man lifts her to her feet and says, "But darling, we must go on. We have no other choice!" She shakes her head and says, "I can't go on! I can't go on!" Then the Indian guide advises the young man, "Hold her close to your heart. Let your strength and your courage flow out of your body into hers. "The young man does this and in a few minutes the woman smiles and says, "Now I can go on! Now I can do it!"

***Today's Scripture selections emphasize the need for Christians to abide in Christ as a condition for producing fruits of kindness, mercy, charity and holiness. The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, testifies to the abundance of spiritual fruits yielded by the apostles because of their close bond with the risen Lord. The reading tells us how the Lord pruned the former Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, the***

***fanatic who had persecuted the Church, to produce a fruit-bearing branch called Paul, the zealous Apostle to the Gentiles, entirely dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel. Even Paul's forced return to Tarsus for a brief period is an example of God's pruning of the vine to bring forth a greater harvest, namely, the mission to the Gentiles. In today's second reading, John, in his first letter to the Church, explains that only if we remain united to Christ by putting our faith in him and drawing our spiritual strength from him, will we be able to obey God's commandments, especially the commandment of love. In the Gospel, taken from the Last Supper discourse, Jesus uses his favorite image of the vine and branches to help his disciples understand the closeness of their relationship with him and the necessity of their maintaining it. They are not simply rabbi and disciples. Their lives are mutually dependent - as close as a vine and its branches. In fact, in using this image, Jesus is explaining to them and to us what our relationship with him should be like.***



## That question can be answered even by my chauffeur!

There is an old story about Albert Einstein. He was going around the country from university to university on the lecture circuit, giving lectures on his theory of relativity. He traveled by chauffeur-driven limousine. One day, after they had been on the road for awhile, Einstein's chauffeur said to him, "Dr. Einstein, I've heard you deliver that lecture on relativity so many times, I'll bet I could deliver it myself." "Very well," the good doctor responded. "I'll give you that opportunity tonight. The people at the university where I am to lecture have never seen me. Before we get there, I'll put on your cap and uniform and you will introduce me as your chauffeur and yourself as me. Then you can give the lecture." For awhile that evening, everything went according to plan. The chauffeur delivered the lecture flawlessly. But as the lecture concluded, a professor in the audience rose and asked a complex question involving mathematical equations and formulas. The quick-thinking chauffeur replied, "Sir, the solution to that problem is so simple I'm really surprised you've asked me to give it to you. Indeed, to prove to you just how simple it is, I'm going to ask my chauffeur to step forward and answer your question."

***What I'm asking you to consider is not about anything as complex as the theory of relativity. It is about our close relationship with Christ the vine, deriving the sap of spiritual life from him, as braches do from the main stem of the vine.***

## A Get Well Card for the Bus driver

She had been brutally murdered on a neighborhood bus. A young, teenaged girl. Cut down in the prime of life by a man suddenly gone berserk. The bus driver, struggling with her assailant, was himself injured. The morning after the tragedy, I was in a drugstore when this young lady's father entered. I did not know him, but was told by the druggist, "That's the girl's father." I immediately assumed he was in the store having a prescription filled for a sedative of some sort. I could well imagine the effects of this sudden and shocking tragedy on the family. The next day I found out how wrong had been my assumption. Do you know what that father was doing in the drugstore the morning after his daughter's tragic death? He was buying a get-well card for the bus driver. Such concern is not born in the orchard of a life barren of fruit. The father's action was most Christ-like. Even in personal sorrow, he was concerned for the well-being of another.

*Where does such gallantry of soul come from? It comes when one looks into the heart of God through a living relationship with his Son, Jesus Christ. In today's Gospel, Our Lord, using vivid symbolism, spells out clearly his relationship to us, and our relationship to him. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me, you can do nothing." Abiding in Jesus is the condition for fertility. Even a well-pruned branch cannot bear grapes unless it abides in the vine, drawing water and minerals from the main trunk and transporting food prepared in the leaves to the main trunk and to the roots. Jesus reminds us that we can not bear fruit either, unless we abide in him just as he abides in us. Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches." What Jesus means is that by abiding in him we will bear much fruit, and that apart from him we can do nothing. Abiding in Christ means that God has to be inside us and we have to be inside God. We abide in Christ by drawing near to God and by experiencing His being near to us, or by living every moment as he has commanded us to do, with the radiant presence of Christ all around us. This life of intimate union with Christ in the Church is maintained by the spiritual helps common to all the faithful, chiefly by active participation in the Liturgy. Those of us who do not abide in Jesus will wither and be thrown away, just as withered branches are thrown into the fire to be burned. Fruit-bearing in Christian life is not just of our own making. It is the sign that Christ is working in us and through us.*

## Pruning an essential part of growing up



In the vineyards in Palestine, pruning was done in late fall or early winter because pruning in spring or summer caused excessive bleeding that weakened the vine. Dead branches were cut away to save the vine. Other branches were pruned so that they would bear more grapes than leaves in the next growing season. John describes God as the Vine-grower who has planted a vine, Jesus. The Father removes every branch that bears no fruit and prunes the other branches so they may bear more fruit.

***Jesus tells his apostles that they have already been pruned by the words he has spoken to them. He refers to the announcement that he will soon be leaving them by his death on the cross. The apostles will not feel the full impact of this "pruning" until Jesus is actually taken away from them in death. Eventually, they will be pruned of all attachment to the things of this world so that they may be ready to attach themselves to the things of Heaven. It is a sorry sight to see that some of us just come to Church Sunday after Sunday in search of spiritual "handouts" or just to "fulfill our Sunday obligation," but give little or nothing back to the community. They are like fruitless, leafy branches draining life from the trunk without giving anything in return.***

## We are the Terminals

A poor German schoolmaster, who lived in a humble house in a small village, carved over his doorway this proud inscription: "Dante, Moliere, and Goethe live here!" That schoolmaster had learned that the secret of a rich life lies in one's spiritual companionship. Jesus wants his followers to be united with him as the branches are related to their and to enjoy continually his spiritual company. "I am the vine, you are the branches", he says. In so far as we abide in him and he in us, we will bear much fruit, because he is the source of life and in so far as we do not, we will be absolutely ineffective, because without him we can do nothing. If a schoolmaster can say that Dante and Moliere and Goethe live with him, why can't Christians say that Christ lives in us and we in Christ?

Probably, most of us have at one time or other walked into a bank or an airline office to be told by the staff: "Sorry you will have to wait; the computer system is down. We can see that the computer terminals are there, some switched on. The screens are lit up; they may even perform some limited functions. However, we know they are quite helpless, because they are not connected to the 'mainframe'. Like the computer terminals, we have to be plugged into Jesus, the mainframe, if we want to be of any use.

## Pastoral Council Seeks New Members

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is the primary advisory body for the Pastor. As we continue to recruit new members, we would like to invite everyone in our parish to help make this leadership body more representative of our entire parish community.

What does this mean for you? Do you know a fellow parishioner who you think would be great to have on the Pastoral Council? Speak with that person and ask them to contact the Council's Co-Chairs:

Marilyn Wegg, [mcw-wam@comcast.net](mailto:mcw-wam@comcast.net) or Frank Rees, [Frees814@gmail.com](mailto:Frees814@gmail.com). If you have been considering joining this ministry, don't be shy. Contact the co-chairs. Everyone who is prayerfully considering this ministry is invited to observe a Pastoral Council meeting.



## 1st Communion Project 2024

SMYLE will be collecting Communion Dresses and Suits **this Sunday, April 28th**. Donations should be placed in the Box marked SMYLE in the Back of the Church.

St. Vincent De Paul ministry is also accepting monetary, clothing and accessory donations for needy children in Perth Amboy churches who need dresses, veils, suits, rosaries for their First Communion. Help them make their First Communion with pride and thankful hearts. Any amount is greatly appreciated. Please try to have donations in no later than April 28th. The sooner the better!

**Send checks to:** KG Brown, 704 Hoover Way, Woodbridge, NJ, 07095

**Checks payable to:** St. Vincent de Paul Society- Metuchen Council

**Memo:** 1st Communion Project 2024



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, May 8th, from 2:00 pm-3:00 pm on Zoom.** Registration is required in order to get the Zoom link.

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](http://alz.org/NJ).

## MOTHER MARY & SAINTS PILGRIMAGE

MOTHER MARY & SAINTS PILGRIMAGE to ENGLAND, IRELAND, and SCOTLAND.

September 16-27, 2024.

12 Days \$4990. Includes RT Airfare from Newark, Daily Breakfasts & Dinners, Hotel accommodations, professional guided tours, deluxe motor coach & more.

**Fr. Abraham Orapankal**, Tour Chaplain.

**For more information call or Email:**

JULIET HOBSON 732-439-2835

Email: [yetjcb@icloud.com](mailto:yetjcb@icloud.com)



**SEPTEMBER 16 – 27, 2024**  
Tour Chaplain: **Fr. Abraham Orapankal**  
Pastor, St. Matthias Church, Somerset, NJ  
**Juliet Hobson, Tour Coordinator**  
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# Connect



## FAMILY MATTERS

JOIN US AS WE EMPOWER CATHOLIC PARENTS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION



Family Matters is a new initiative of the Center for FaithJustice in partnership with RENEW International. It is a process for nurturing discipleship among parents and caregivers as they enrich their own faith lives to more vibrantly pass on Catholic social tradition to their children.

**St. Matthias will be piloting this program for families/children this year! Join us!**

### Parents and families will have access to:

- Online resources
- In-person gatherings at their parish
- Home based activities
- Mentorship from other Catholic parents in your parish
- Access to Spiritual Direction
- Retreats and Service opportunities with other families

**Interested in joining? We will begin by hosting listening sessions for interested parents and families this spring!**

Sign up for the listening session.

Email Dee Nann: [dnann@stmatthias.net](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)

With you on the journey!

Center for FaithJustice, RENEW International

# Learn



## CAMP INVENTION AT ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL!

June 17-21, 2024



Thanks to rave reviews from campers, parents, and teachers, we're bringing **Camp Invention** back for its 7th year at St. Matthias School!

Camp Invention®

Even better, our 2024 program is full of all-new, hands-on STEM fun!

Don't miss out—register students going into grades Kindergarten - 6th grade at [invent.org/mylocalcamp](http://invent.org/mylocalcamp) until camp starts. Register by **March 27<sup>th</sup>** using **FUN25** to **save \$25** or by **May 16<sup>th</sup>** using **FUN15** to **save \$15!** If you have multiple children use **SIBLOVE30** to **save \$30** for 2 siblings and **SIBLOVE40** to **save \$40** for 3 or more siblings!

Contact Camp Director, **Christine Taylor** at [ctaylor@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:ctaylor@stmatthiasnj.org) for any questions.

**Camp Week: June 17-21, 2024**

For students 7th grade to 9th grade, you can register as Leaders-in-Training to help support the teachers at a discounted registration fee and for students 10th grade and up you can get 40 volunteer hours by registering and helping that week!

## 2024 SMS Golf Classic

Tuesday May 21, 2024

Neshanic Valley Golf Course

Neshanic Station, NJ



# Serve

## A DAY OF SERVICE

The next Morning of Service will be held on **Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**. If you are interested in volunteering that morning, please email **John and Coleen Zdziarski** at [jzdzarski@comcast.net](mailto:jzdzarski@comcast.net). Please note that those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. The sites are:

1. Franklin Food Bank - 224 Churchill Avenue in Somerset - sorting canned goods, etc. Minimum age is 14. Limited to six people (8:15 - 12:00 noon).
2. Pregnancy Aid Center - 59 Thompson Street in Raritan - sorting children's clothing. Limited to eight people (9:30 - 12:00 noon).



**Volunteers Needed**

## Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 41 - April 7, 2024	\$8,123.50	\$22,957.00	<b>\$31,080.50</b>	\$26,704.25
Week 42 - April 14, 2024	\$11,716.00	\$17,667.50	<b>\$29,383.50</b>	\$45,751.27
Week 43 - April 21, 2024	\$8,835.00	\$12,642.40	<b>\$21,477.40</b>	\$38,662.25
Week 44 - April 28, 2024			<b>\$0.00</b>	\$19,377.25
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>April Total Last Year</b>
			<b>\$81,941.40</b>	\$130,495.02
			<b>Current Year-to-date Total</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of April 30, 2023</b>
			<b>\$1,144,680.10</b>	\$1,182,598.04

### Stewardship Reflection April 28, 2024 5th Sunday of Easter

**“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” -1 JOHN 3:18**

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you “walk the talk?” Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it’s not too late to start!

### Reflexiónese - 28 de abril de 2024 5° Domingo de Pascua

**“Este es mi mandamiento: Que os améis los unos a los otros, como yo os he amado. Nadie tiene un amor mayor que este, que dar su vida por uno de sus amigos.” -Juan 15:12-13**

¿Ama a Jesús? ¿Lo considera su amigo? Jesús dice que si lo amamos seremos capaces de ofrecerle lo que tenemos, no porque queremos alabanzas y gloria, sino simplemente porque lo amamos. ¿Su donación parece mecánica y por obligación o comparte sus dones libremente por amor?

## Pray



### CURSILLO RETREAT NOTES FROM GONDEE TIBAY

The **Cursillo Women’s Retreat** held on **April 11-14, 2024** was attended by 11 women from different parishes in the diocese; 5 from St Matthias Parish. It was served by Cursillistas from different parishes. For me, it was an experience of “full, active, and conscious” encounter with Jesus. Humbly, a Damascus moment! The series of talks opened my spiritual vision to an edifying path of the faith journey. It was mystical, and it can only be experienced. It was an Ephesians 3:20 fulfillment!

**My fellow retreat attendees and new cursillista had these to say:**

*“Cursillo is God calling me in a very personal level. It inspired me to be attentive to what He is gently saying everyday.”*  
-Agnes Sindac

*“The weekend retreat was full of prayer, learning, talks, personal testimonies and small group sharing which all helped me to get closer to God. It left me wanting to make a positive difference in my area of influence.”* -Gabriela Kostikova

*“Living the Cursillo weekend helped strengthen my walk with Christ with its 3 Cursillo pillars of Piety, Study & Action, as well as live the Cursillo’s motto, “Make a friend, being an friend, bring a friend to Christ.” The weekend empowered me as I received this words, “Christ is counting on you!”, and I replied “And I’m counting on Christ!” I acknowledge I’m not perfect and a work in progress, but that nothing is impossible with Him. Lk 1:37”*-Emile Capuno

*“The weekend retreat was one of the best retreats I’ve ever attended. My “PSA” score was elevated. I believe that the Holy Spirit was present among us and the theme of the retreat “IT WAS NOT YOU WHO CHOSE ME, BUT I WHO CHOSE YOU” made me ponder.”* -Claudette Gaspard

Fellow parishioner, Bill Grippo, the Diocesan Lay Coordinator believes that “Cursillo is a gift of the Holy Spirit to the parish.”

Women’s retreat are held in the spring and men’s retreat in the fall which is scheduled for **Oct 17-20, 2024**.

For further details, please go to [Metcursillo.org](http://Metcursillo.org)

# Connecting to Our Local Community



## THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

Tuesday, May 7

Peacemaker, author, and Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, Father John Dear, will be with us to talk about and sign copies of his new book, his life's work: *The Gospel of Peace: A Commentary on Matthew, Mark, and Luke from the Perspective of Nonviolence*. It is the first ever commentary on the Synoptic Gospels from the perspective of active nonviolence in the tradition of Gandhi and Dr. King. In this original work, Fr. John walks us through every line of the three synoptic Gospels pointing out Jesus' practice and teachings on nonviolence, peace, and universal love and invites us to follow him. Limited in person availability.

Presenter: Fr. John Dear Tuesday, May 7 from 7-9 pm at the House of Prayer and on Zoom \$20-\$30 as you are able.

**Registration for all offerings is required 10 days in advance** to avoid the program being cancelled.

You can register and pay for any program at [www.msmhope.org](http://www.msmhope.org).



## Simply Prayer: Share the Light

10 AM on Tuesday, May 7, 2024

The Church dedicates the month of May to Our Lady Mother of Jesus the Light of the World. Let us remember her beautiful life and ask for her intercession, as we gather for **Simply Prayer: Share the Light** at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 7. Sister Marguerite Stewart (inset) will lead the program in the first-floor conference room of St. Francis Center at Monocacy Manor in Bethlehem, Pa. For those who do not live nearby, online attendance also is available through Zoom.

Those attending in person are welcome to join us for coffee at 9:30 a.m. Freewill offerings are accepted.

If you would prefer to register by phone, contact Lauren Martin at 610-867-8890 or [lmartin@schoolsistersof.org](mailto:lmartin@schoolsistersof.org).



## In God's Image

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 May 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 732 790 3136 or the group may be reached via email at [sacredheartigi@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheartigi@gmail.com).

## Parish Leadership

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

**Parish Registration** — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. [www.stmatthias.net/join-us](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,

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