THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JAN 24, 2021 –
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

SMYLE Youth Collection Today—
Drop off Dunkin cards and personal hygiene items
(toothbrushes, toothpaste, tissue packs, hand sanitizer) in
the Cry room after all the masses THIS weekend.
SMYLE youth will deliver this to
Unity Square.

Live Lent Small Group Registration
is now open. See page 7 for details.

Night of Winners Tickets are now
on sale. Sign up today to participate in this evening of
fun and prizes. See page 8.

Pre-register now for Covid-19 vaccine. See pg. 10 for details.

Don’t just
observe Lent.
LIVE IT!

Sign Up Today to Make Lent 2021 the Best Lent Ever!
Start for the first time or continue with a St. Matthias Small Faith Sharing
Group! This Lent we will meet on Zoom. See pg. 7 for details.

If You Attend Church & Test Positive for Covid, Let Us Know
If you attend church and then test positive for Covid, please call the
Parish Office, 732-828-1400, as soon as possible. Here is the information we
request:
1. Name (we will NOT release this)
2. Phone number
4. Where in church you were sitting.
5. Date you tested positive.
This will help us ensure that we can let others know, as well as keep our
church building as safe as possible. Please also let us know if there is
anything we can do to help and if you would like to be added to the
Prayer List.

Everyone Invited to Participate in Night of Winners!
Night of Winners, our School’s traditional Basket Raffle, will take place this
year partly in-person and partly from home. You will have the opportunity
to drop off your raffle tickets (socially distant) in the baskets of your choice
in the cafeteria before the event. Then sit back at home and enjoy the
celebration on Saturday night. This event is normally sold out. But since we
don’t have seating limits this year, EVERYONE is invited to buy a ticket and
participate. See page 8. Let’s make this the best year ever!
**This Week at St. Matthias**

- **All Masses** will be celebrated **in-person** (overflow in the cafeteria).
- **Masses** will also be **livestreamed on our YouTube channel**:
  - **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, Jan 24, 2021**
- 10:00AM Mass Church
- 10:30AM Communion outside front doors
- 10:30AM (At Mass) SMYLE Youth Collection of donated goods Cry Room
- 12:00PM Mass Church
- 12:30PM Communion outside front doors
- 12:30PM (At Mass) SMYLE Youth Collection of donated goods Cry Room
- 2:00PM RCIA session via Zoom

**Monday, Jan 25, 2021**
- 8:00AM Mass Church
- 6:00PM Property Mgt. Comm. Mtg. Zoom

**Tuesday, Jan 26, 2021**
- 8:00AM Daily Mass Church
- 7:00PM Pastoral Council Mtg. Zoom

**Wednesday, Jan 27, 2021**
- 8:00AM Mass Church
- 7:00PM RCIA Sessions Zoom

**Thursday, Jan 28, 2021**
- 8:00AM Mass Church
- 3:30PM Children’s Choir 3rd & 4th gr. Church
- 4:15PM Children’s Choir 5th-8th gr. Church

**Friday, Jan 29, 2021**
- 8:00AM Daily Mass Church

**Saturday, Jan 30, 2021**
- 3:30-4:30PM Confessions Church
- 5:00PM Mass Church

**Sunday, Jan 30, 2021 Catholic Schools Week**
- 10:00AM Mass Church
- 10:30AM Communion outside front doors
- 10:30AM RCIA Zoom
- 12:00PM Mass Church
- 12:30PM Communion outside front doors

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**From the Pastor & the Pastoral Staff**

Dear Friends,

The Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Now entering its 47th year, CSW is from **January 31 to February 6, 2021**. When I looked at this year’s theme, I was in for a happy surprise: “Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.” The reason for my happy surprise was that the motto of our own St. Matthias school is “Faith, Caring and Excellence”!! It is wonderful to see the similar theme being reinforced during the Catholic Schools Week in the whole nation.

The unprecedented pandemic challenges we all faced did not deter us from keeping St. Matthias school open Monday to Friday and giving a normal happy experience of school life to our students, while implementing all the safety measures. Even when we had to close the school temporarily after some nine months of uninterrupted in person classes, we made sure that all our students had Chromebooks that enabled everyone to have easy remote learning.

This focus on excellence was accompanied by spiritual formation of our students. Fr. Joe was a constant presence in the school encouraging the students with spiritual lessons. Taking each class for a tour of the Christmas Trees, explaining the Christmas theme and practices was just one of the ways of faith formation that we tried to give our students.

In living the theme of the Catholic Schools Week, the role of our teachers is something that needs to be emphasized. Various Church documents speak in glowing terms about the Catholic school teachers. For instance the Vatican document The Catholic Schools on the Threshold of the Third Millennium described that the Teachers are called to “serve as a reflection of the one Teacher, Jesus Christ.”

I wish to thank Elena Malinconico, our Principal, Joe Gidaro, our Vice Principal, and all our wonderful teachers and assistants who try their best to impart Catholic values through their dedicated service to the students and to the whole of the school community, together with all the support staff, maintenance staff, associations of parents, well-wishers and benefactors.

St. Matthias School is an integral part of the Catholic Community of St. Matthias. In the face of serious challenges from public schools, charter schools and other secular forces, our parish has a stake in promoting St. Matthias School, as we pass on our precious faith to the next generation. May this year’s Catholic Schools Week help us all to have a renewed appreciation of our School and witness to the Catholic values in our lives.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Pray for those getting Married...

Christina DeJesus & Edger Brito—Saturday, Feb. 7, 2021

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please 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.

Pray for those who have died...

 Phillip Russo
Gabriel DiCerbo
Mary Eads

“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Page 3
**Parenting Tune-Up**

Jan. 29 is the annual March for Life in Washington DC. Can’t go to Washington since it will be virtual? You can still testify to the meaning of this event. Talk with your child about the value of life no matter how young or how old. Perhaps donate baby items to a pregnancy center.

**Marriage Tune-Up**

Another way to Turn Your Beloved Off!! - Let Your Kids Pre-empt your Beloved. Our children are important and take a lot of care - But, sometimes, we unnecessarily put our kids before our spouse. Babysitters can be a gift from God. If you aren't a parent, substitute “work” for “kids.”

**Stewardship Quote:**

“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” - Mark 1:17. Jesus’ call to “Follow me” is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are “ready” or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren’t always going to go according to our schedule and that God has a much better plan in store for each of us. (Archbishop Carlson)

**Four Reasons Why People Do Not Catch Fish!**

There are basically four reasons why people do not catch fish:

1. Some people are using the wrong bait.
2. Some people are fishing in the wrong lake, that is, they don’t know where the fish are.
3. Some people have got the right bait and they’re in the right lake, but they don’t know how to fish.
4. Then there are some people who have the right bait, and they’re in the right lake, and they know how to fish but they’re just not going fishing.

The Lord Jesus came not only that we might put our faith in Him, but that we might go fishing with Him. You see, our problem is not that we have the wrong lake. The water is full of fish. The problem is not that we have the wrong bait. We have the Gospel which can hook any fish. Our problem, I believe, is one of ignorance and apathy. There are many Christians who believe they do not know how to share the Lord Jesus, and then there are many who just don’t want to go.

**“It Takes a Tough Man to Make a Tender Chicken”**

Purdue Farms had the same problem when they tried to expand their chicken business. Their popular slogan tried to appeal to women by making men prepare a chicken dinner. Do you recall the slogan? It was, “It takes a tough man to make a tender chicken.” Desiring to reach into the Spanish market they translated their slogan and announced to the entire Latino world, “It takes a virile man to make a chicken affectionate.” Now that’s a personal touch but not the kind I had in mind. How can we reach others for Christ? We can do it by speaking their language - understanding their jobs, taking an interest in their hobbies, speaking to them about their families. We can do it with a personal touch.

**Do You Appreciate the Call to be Christ’s Disciples?**

Every one of us is called by God, both individually and collectively. The mission of preaching, teaching and healing which Jesus began in Galilee is now the responsibility of the Church. Our own unique vocation and our relationship with the risen Lord are the same as that of the universal Church. Be we religious, priests, married or single people, we are all called, and in this call we become what God wants us to be. The call, of course, begins with our Baptism and the other Sacraments of Initiation. It is strengthened throughout the years with the Eucharist and Reconciliation, healed and consoled by Anointing and made manifest in Matrimony, or Holy Orders. God is relentless in calling us back to Himself, even when we stray away from Him.
In her book The Sacred Meal, Nora Gallagher tells the story of her church’s starting a soup kitchen. With so many homeless coming to their church office looking for help, the church realized it had to do something. So they began serving soup once a week through a little window cut into the back door of the parish hall. One day it began to rain. The poor outside were getting drenched, so, for the first time since the soup kitchen opened five months before, the homeless were invited. Everyone behaved. Almost no one spoke. So the volunteers continued to invite them inside every day. For months the homeless sat at the tables set up for them, and the volunteers stood behind the serving table. Then one day, Nora Gallagher noticed that, at a table with four homeless men, there was also seated a well-dressed woman, eating the same food. She was a volunteer from another church. The next week, Nora tried it. She sat down with a bunch of guys who looked up and greeted her. She began to learn their names and stories.

She writes:

"I began to understand what Jesus had done when he sat down with outcasts. For an hour, I became an outcast myself... This was simple, a kind of nothing, but it greatly affected my sense of how the gospels connected to my life. I was 'doing' the gospels. After I'd eaten at the tables with the men and women for a couple of months, when I walked in the door, I felt I was walking toward the same place I sought when I took Communion. And one day, as I handed a guy a bowl of soup, I imagined a river of free vegetables flowing into the kitchen. Our job was to catch the vegetables, make them into soup, and pass them along. I thought about how weird it would be to charge for the soup: what was freely given had to be freely given away. This was God's economy, I realized... the economy of abundance."

Nora and her soup kitchen ministers also understood that God's "economy of abundance" was tenuous: you could not buy your way out of it, but had to rely on what was donated. "In the economy of abundance," she writes, "you had to scrounge. We begged for bread from local bakeries; from butchers who donated meat... [From] traveling executives, we were given the soaps and shampoo collected in hotels. On the bottom rungs, I saw that scrounging is a craft. [Those] served in the kitchen sifted through wastebaskets at the end of the day and found things I would have missed... everything was useful; nothing was wasted. I came to believe God scrounges too. A pregnant, unmarried woman; tax collectors; blind beggars; a son conceived out of wedlock. God uses what is useless, what is discarded, what is low."

When Jesus began his ministry, he did not go to the ranks of "professional" religious to be his co-workers; he entrusted his Gospel to good and just, hard-working fishermen. He calls every one of us - merchant or fisherman, executive or line worker - to become a "scrounger" for God's economy of abundance. Being the "fisher" that Jesus calls us to be does not require us to cast our lines and nets very far. The help we offer to family and friends, to neighbors and parishioners, realizes the vision that Jesus articulates in today's Gospel. Christ entrusts to each one of us the work of discipleship: to extend, regardless of our own circumstances, the love of God to all; to proclaim, in our own homes and communities, the compassion and justice of the Gospel; to take on God's work of reconciliation and forgiveness among all his sons and daughters.

Integrity, Intelligence and Energy!

Warren Buffett, the nation’s most successful financial investor and the second-richest man in America, has some very valuable advice on hiring the best people for your business. He says, "Somebody once said that in looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence, and energy. And if they don't have the first, the other two will kill you." [Omaha World Herald, Feb. 1, 1994. Cited in Thoughts of Chairman Buffett, (New York: Harper Business, 1998).] If you were looking to hire someone to work for you, where would you begin? Wouldn't you begin with someone you could trust?

Jesus saw something in these men that helped him to know that he could depend on them. This is not to say that the disciples were perfect. Certainly they were not. There is a silly story about Jesus having his Last Supper with his disciples. As they ate, he looked around at them. There, in one direction, he saw Judas Iscariot, who would betray him to the authorities before three hours had passed. On the other side was Peter, who would deny him three times before the cock crowed. And almost immediately opposite him was Thomas, who, on a crucial occasion, would express doubts. There seemed only one thing to do. Jesus called over the headwaiter, "Max," he said, "separate checks." Yes, a silly story. Jesus did the opposite. He loved them all, no matter!
Today is Word of God Sunday!

Two years ago, Pope Francis designated the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time to be celebrated as Word of God Sunday. This year it is today, January 24. In his Motu Proprio decree instituting this day, Francis says:

“May the Sunday of the Word of God help his people to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred Scriptures. For as the sacred author taught of old: “This word is very near to you: it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance” (Dt 30:14).

Feeding Your Family Food for the Soul:

Recent surveys have shown that few Catholics read the Bible on their own or as a family. But what better place is there to encounter the person of Jesus Christ than in God’s Word? As St. Jerome once noted,

“Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.”

The Church continually invites us to return to God’s Word. For when we pray with the Bible—personally and in our homes—our encounter with the living Word of God is not a mere intellectual exercise but a spiritually nourishing feast. As we find ways to share God’s Word in our homes we will experience firsthand what the Second Vatican Council means in Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum) when it states that “in the sacred books the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them. And such is the force and power of the Word of God that it can serve the Church as her support and vigor, and the children of the Church as strength for their faith, food for the soul, and a pure and lasting fount of spiritual life” (no. 21, in Flannery).

Decide Between a New Car or Getting Engaged

There are some issues too important to put off. A decision has to be made. Once an Ann Landers column told about a dilemma faced by another young man: “Dear Ann, I have got to decide between a new car and getting engaged. I really love this wonderful young lady. But every night when I go to sleep, I dream about the car.”

When we hear an invitation from Christ, we often find two conflicting inner voices within our spirit. One is telling us, look before you leap; don’t get involved; you can always do it later on. Then there is a voice urging us to trust and be obedient to the call. We can’t have it both ways. We must respond to one voice or the other. We can’t waver between two opinions. The disciples were teachable; they were decisive.

“Who and What Am I Working For?”

There is a story about a holy rabbi. In the town where he lived, the houses of the rich stood in an isolated area so that they had to hire men to watch over their property at night. Late one evening as the rabbi was coming home he met a watchman walking up and down. “For whom are you working?” the rabbi asked. The man told him and then inquired in his turn, “And for whom are you working for, rabbi?” The words struck the rabbi like a shaft. ‘I am not working for anyone just now,’ he barely managed to say. Then he walked up and down beside the man for a long time. ‘Will you be my servant?’ he finally asked. ‘I should like to,’ the man replied, ‘but what would be my duties?’ ‘To ask me that question every now and then,’ said the rabbi. It’s a question each of us might ask ourselves every now and then: Who or what am I working for?

When Can We Have the Greatest Renewal?

A few years ago Richard Cardinal Cushing wrote: “If all the sleeping folks will wake up, and all the lukewarm folks will fire up, and all the disgruntled folks will sweeten up, and all the discouraged folks will cheer up, and all the depressed folks will look up, and all the estranged folks will make up, and all the gossiping folks will shut up, and all the dry bones will shake up, and all the true soldiers will stand up, and all the Church members will pray up, and if the Savior of all will be lifted up . . . then we can have the greatest renewal this world has ever known. Amen.”

Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

All Waiting

Today’s readings talk to us about “call” – Samuel called by the Lord, the first disciples called by Jesus. Our God constantly calls us to enter into a personal relationship with him. In daily life, especially during these difficult Covid Pandemic days, it is not so simple to hear the call of God. Sometimes others are most valuable in helping us – Eli helped Samuel, and Andrew helped his brother Simon. We invite you to Come and See how the Catholic Community of St. Matthias can help you to respond to emptiness, or a longing to get to know God better, or a sense of being drawn to the Catholic Church. Attendance at an Inquiry Session requires NO COMMITMENT to join the Catholic Community. Inquiry Sessions are merely an opportunity to “Come and See” how the Catholic Faith Community can help you find a home in God. All who are unbaptized, baptized into another Christian denomination, or have never received BOTH sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist are invited. For more information, please contact Phyllis Stone at pstone@stmatthias.net.
Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

Ash Wednesday & the Lenten Season

Mark your calendars for **February 17th, Ash Wednesday** and the beginning of Lent. Once again, St. Matthias will offer drive-through ashes come rain or shine, in addition to Mass and prayer services on **Wednesday, February 17th**.

If you would like to help distribute ashes for one or both shifts of the drive-through (3:45 - 4:45 or 4:45 to 5:45), please contact the Parish Office or email pstone@stmatthias.net.

**Prayer for St. Joseph’s Intercession**

Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church in his Apostolic Letter “Patris corde”, which means “With a Father’s Heart”. The Holy Father has proclaimed a special “Year of St. Joseph” that begins on December 8, 2020 (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) until December 8th of 2021. Please join us in praying our **Prayer for St. Joseph’s Intercession** every first Wednesday of the month, at the end of the 8am Mass. [St. Joseph’s Intercession Prayer](https://www.stmatthias.net/app/uploads/2021/01/01-prayer-for-st-josephs-intercession-prayer.pdf)

**Mass Intentions**

Mass Intentions for the 8AM Mass will be combined with that at the 10AM Mass and the 5:30PM intention will be combined with that at 12PM.

Discovering God: Formation

**Don’t just observe Lent. LIVE IT!**

Make Lent 2021 the Best Lent Ever! Start for the first time or continue with a St. Matthias Small Faith Sharing Group! This Lent on Zoom!

We have 20 groups that meet on various days/times of the week. If you are new to this experience, please sign up online [here](https://forms.gle/BjK8Gken13TtbbKGB). Continuing members, no need to sign up—simply connect with your group facilitator.

Facilitators will be contacting group members who were part of their group this past fall. Each group will be meeting on Zoom on the same date/time. **Groups will begin the week of February 14**! New members, please sign up early! Most groups will be using the Live Lent, Year B resource. It will be available for pick up at the parish office, cost is $8. Questions? Please email Dee Nann, dnann@stmatthias.net.

Beginning next Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021, we will celebrate Catholic Schools Week.
Being Good Stewards

**Night of Winners House**

Registration and Basket Raffle Tickets for **Night of Winners 2021—House Party**— to support St. Matthias School are on sale NOW!!! Registration closes on 02/11/2021 at 5:00PM.

The You Tube Live Stream event will be held on Sat., Feb. 13, 2021 beginning at 8:00PM.

To participate, you must be available (or designate a rep) to put your tickets in the baskets bins in the SMS cafeteria on either Fri., 2/12 from 5-9PM or Sat., 2/13 from 9am-4pm.. All registered participants will be sent a Sign Up Genius prior to 2/12 so that they can sign up for an hour long slot to drop tickets into bins. All people entering the building must wear a Mask at all times & will be subject to a temperature scan &answer a Covid screening sheet. Additional tickets may be purchased at that time.

Registration is $10.00 per person which includes 1 door prize ticket and access to the link for the Live Stream event.

**Prize raffle tickets costs are:**

1. General Prizes raffle tickets (worth $100. or more) sheets of 26 tickets for 25.00
2. Super Prize tickets (for prizes worth $500. or more) sheets of 6 tickets for $25.00
3. Package Deal- 4 General prize sheets + 1 Super prize sheet (5 tickets) for $100.00—you save $25.00!

Food Bank—Rather than bringing donation for the Food Bank we are asking a free-will donation of 5.00 to be included in the registration fee.

Payment can be via cash, check, credit card, PayPal, Venmo. If paying via cash or check, it must be received in the school office by 2:00PM on 2/11/2021.

Any questions, please contact Melissa Garlatti— melissa.garlatti@gmail.com.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Stewardship Reflection Jan 24, 2021 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</th>
<th>Reflexiones — 24 de enero de 2021 3do. Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario</th>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.&quot;— Mark 1:17</td>
<td>&quot;Jesús se dio la vuelta y al ver que lo seguían les preguntó, &quot;¿Qué están buscando?&quot; - Juan 1:38</td>
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*Jesus' call to “Follow me” is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are “ready” or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren’t always going to go according to our schedule and that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.*

**Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

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<tr>
<th>Current Month</th>
<th>In-Pew/Mail</th>
<th>Parish Giving</th>
<th>Weekly Total</th>
<th>Last Year’s Total</th>
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<td>Week 27 - Jan. 3, 2021</td>
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<td>$19,813.20</td>
<td>$23,490.20</td>
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**Consider Joining the Parish Finance Council**

Our new Finance Council here at St. Matthias began its first meeting in April 2019. They have been meeting every month and examining all of our financial matters and have communicated their reports many times to our parishioners. In our last meeting it was suggested that we invite new members to join the Council to keep it going on a rotating basis, allowing for change as well as continuity. Hence if you have financial or business background, please consider volunteering to serve our community through the Parish Finance Council. Kindly contact me at abraham@stmatthias.net.
Caring for Others

Meal Brigade for Fr. Abraham

We wanted to remind everyone that the Meal Brigade for Fr. Abraham continues. The link to sign up for future weeks is: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4c4afa2fa0fa7-stmatthias

When Fr. Abraham first arrived, he mentioned that at his previous parish, parishioners had set up a meal brigade, bringing a meal three times a week. This saved the parish the cost of hiring a cook. We decided to continue this tradition at St. Matthias. Meals can be left in the cooler on the front porch of the rectory (the house next to the Parish Office). The above link can also be found on our website, www.stmatthias.net, by clicking on “Serve” and then scrolling down to “Meal Brigade for Fr. Abraham”. Questions? Contact Phyllis Stone, pstone@stmatthias.net

Caregivers Support Group Meeting - via ZOOM

All Caregivers and those who may be experiencing chronic pain, are invited to join us on VIA ZOOM on SATURDAY--FEBRUARY 20, FROM 10:00-11:00 AM. If you are interested, please forward your email address to C0-chair, Donna Kahora: friendsofnikki@comcast.net.

Please send your email address no than February 15.

Thank You from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Matthias want to thank all who recently made donations, especially during the Christmas Season. With your help, we have been able to assist clients in the Franklin Township area with bills for housing, as well as for keeping their lights and heat on. In addition, we were able to send gift cards for Thanksgiving food to 16 households, and gift cards for Christmas food and children’s presents to 13 households. If you or someone you know in Franklin needs help during this difficult time, please contact us through our SVDP Help Line at 732-828-1400 ext. 120 or email us at SVDPatSM@gmail.com

Being Good Stewards

Catholic School 2021-2022 Tuition Assistance

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at https://online.factsmgt.com/aid.

Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than March 31, 2021. Applications are available in English and Spanish. Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact the School office at 732-828-1402.

Building Community

Thank You for Helping Us Spread the Light!

A word of thanks to all those who worked so hard on our “Spread the Light” Christmas Tree initiative! This event, in all its phases, was life giving for all!

Thanks to:
- The Gleason Family who helped us get started with seed money.
- The people who sponsored the trees.
- Those who made donations and those who offered their prayers.
- The Knights of Columbus for all their help.
- Our Maintenance Staff who put up all the poles and stored the equipment.
- Our Parish staff who helped coordinate all the tree requests.
- All those who helped set up and take down the trees.
- Franklin Electric who donated the wiring and timer, and set up the electrical service for the trees.
- All those who took pictures with cameras and drones.
- All those who printed and laminated all of the plaques.
- All those who checked and fixed trees when there were issues.
- All those who donated bins for storing the lights and cords.
- And last but not least, Fr. Joe Curry who spearheaded this wonderful, community building initiative.

In addition to being a great source of hope and peace to our Parish and the local Community, this event raised over $45,000 for the church, at a time when it is greatly needed. May God continue to bless us with this hope in the year to come!
Connecting with Our Local Community

Rosary for Life!

On Friday, January 29, 2021, there will be a Rosary for Life at 1 pm (to coincide with the March for Life in Washington, DC) in front of the American Wellness Center on Main Street in Woodbridge. Everyone will meet in the St. James, Woodbridge Parking Lot (369 Amboy Ave in Woodbridge) and we will process to the location (with police escort). Bishop Checchio will be joining us and the Rosary will be bi-lingual (English/Spanish). (The police will escort us back to the St. James parking lot at the conclusion of the rosary).

Father Thomas at St. James has a daily 12:10 pm Mass, so people would be welcome to join the Mass and then meet in the parking lot to process to the Rosary.

New Jersey Reproductive Freedom Act

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The Diocesan Office of Human Life & Dignity has been working closely with the New Jersey Catholic Conference (NJCC) on this issue to develop resources and monitor the bill. The link to NJ Catholic Conference’s resource page is https://njcatholic.org/reproductive-freedom-act. Please check this website frequently for updates. Also, please make sure to sign up on the above website to receive action alerts.

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Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:
Chair: Nick Grippo
nickgrippo@gmail.com
Co-Chair: Lisa Robinson
lar0504@comcast.net
Secretary: Tom Aussem
Co-Secretary: Denise Brown
Lorraine Farr
Anne Marie Francis
Caudine Langinn
Garnett Linderoth
Joe Percoco
Rose Peng
Marybeth Purcell
John Taylor
Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
Parish Finance Council:
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Finance council
@stmatthias.net
Susan Klimcak
Barny Dussault
Gwen Orolowski
Audrey Francis
Kester Hector
Mary Beth Oria, Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
Trustees:
Isaac Peng
Marge Richards

About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

Parish Registration — Welcome new members! Please register by calling the Parish Office.

Baptism — Baptism 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.

Marriage — Registered parishioners should contact the parish office a year before the desired wedding date.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

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Stewardship

Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all our blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent and treasure allotted to us. Whether it is clothes for the poor, food for the hungry, outreach to youth, in education, in worship, or simply arms stretched out to someone who is lonely, the Catholic Community of St. Matthias encourages everyone to become stewards of the gifts they have been given by God, returning a portion in gratitude to God for the work of ministry here at St. Matthias and beyond our local community.

St. Matthias School is a PreK 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.

Bulletin Article Requests

Please email proposed bulletin articles to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 6 pm, Wednesday, 10 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends).

Mount Saint Mary

House of Prayer

1651 US Hwy. 22, Watchung, 908-753-2091
www.msmhope.org

THOMAS AQUINAS: DISCIPLE AND SAINT via ZOOM

Most know St. Thomas Aquinas as a Doctor of the Church and eminent scholar. Do we ever ponder why he’s called Saint? Not for his work so much as his spirit and life as a disciple of Jesus! That’s what we will think and pray about on this eve of his Feast. Wed, Jan. 27, 7-9 pm. ($20-$30 as you are able) Presenter: Honora Werner, OP

COVID Vaccine Information

To receive a Covid vaccine, go to: https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine

There you will be able to pre-register and to learn what category you are in. Please note that the categories have been changing, so check this website often for the latest information.

Once you are eligible, you can go to the list of vaccine locations and schedule your appointment. Note that you are eligible to receive a vaccine from anywhere in the state. If you do not have access to a computer, you may call 211.

Welcome new members!

 tamborine@gmail.com

Connecting with Our Local Community

Rosary for Life!

On Friday, January 29, 2021, there will be a Rosary for Life at 1 pm (to coincide with the March for Life in Washington, DC) in front of the American Wellness Center on Main Street in Woodbridge. Everyone will meet in the St. James, Woodbridge Parking Lot (369 Amboy Ave in Woodbridge) and we will process to the location (with police escort). Bishop Checchio will be joining us and the Rosary will be bi-lingual (English/Spanish). (The police will escort us back to the St. James parking lot at the conclusion of the rosary).

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