

**St. Matthew
the Apostle
Parish**

**25th Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

September 19, 2021



**25th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME**

335 Dover Chester Road
Randolph, NJ 07869
Phone (973)584-1101

“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name,
receives me.” - Mk 9:37a

Served by

Rev. Brian P. Quinn, Pastor	(Fr.Brian)
Permanent Deacon Edward Keegan	(Deacon.Ed)
Permanent Deacon Richard Brady	(Deacon.Rich)
Permanent Deacon William Ruane	(Deacon.Bill)
Moira A. Dziomba- Dir. of Faith Formation	(Moira.Dziomba)
Carol Lindsey - Faith Formation Assistant	(Carol.Lindsey)
Jim Hill - Youth Group Director	(Jim.Hill)
Kathleen Burke - Music Minister	(Kathy.Burke)
David Southerland - Assoc. Music Minister	(David.Southerland)
MaryAnn Spagnuolo - Office Manager/Secretary	(MaryAnn.Spagnuolo)
Karen Loveys - Office Assistant	(Karen.Loveys)
Greg Schrader - Maintenance & Facilities	
Beth Hart & Charlie Stoia - Trustees	

*All email addresses are (name)[@stmatthewsrandolph.org](mailto:(name)@stmatthewsrandolph.org)

We Invite You to Celebrate

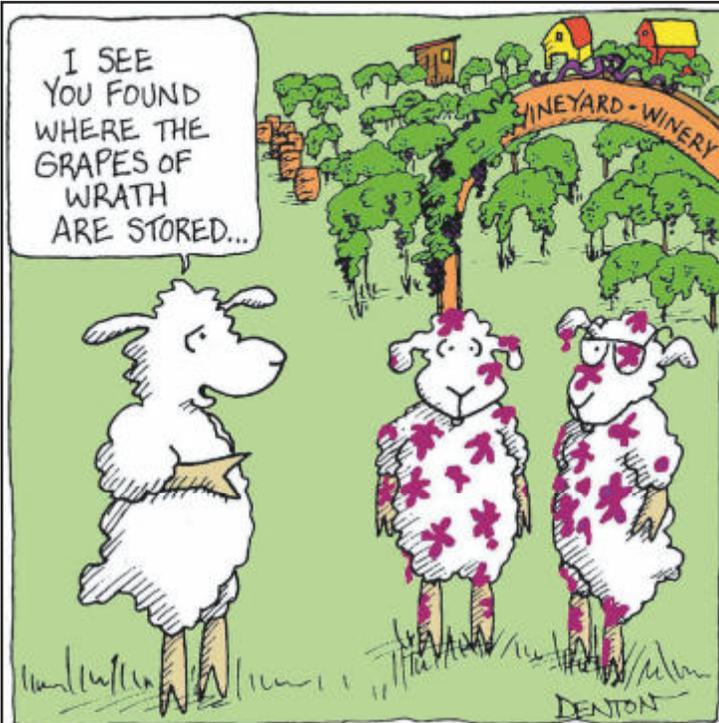
<u>Eucharist:</u>	Saturday - 5:00 pm Sunday - 8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:00 am
<u>Weekday Mass:</u>	Monday - Friday at 8:00 am
<u>Reconciliation:</u>	Saturday 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm (*or by appointment)
<u>Adoration:</u>	Third Tuesday - 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Our Mission

We are a Catholic community seeking out and welcoming all in a spirit of hospitality and empowering people to grow in discipleship in Jesus Christ.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 18 5:00 pm	Giovanni Lucchesi Michael DiGregorio
Sunday, September 19 8:00 am	Joe Berry Jr. Ladislav Palfi
9:30 am	Leonard Schmeider
11:00 am	Alex Davidson
Monday, September 20	Margaret Ruane
Tuesday, September 21	Mary Barry
Wednesday, September 22	Ed & Mary Schrader
Thursday, September 23	Anthony Timpanaro
Friday, September 24	Irene Biro
Saturday, September 25 5:00 pm	Judy Sebastiano Francis McManus
Sunday, September 26 8:00 am	Francis McManus
9:30 am	Louis Galli Eleanora Coviello
11:00 am	Kathleen Liebhauser



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"The wicked say: Let us beset the just one...
let us put the just one to the test."

Sheepish Question:

In my own surroundings, where ARE the "grapes of wrath" stored and how can I avoid them?

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, September 19, 2021

First Reading: Wis 2:20

Let us condemn him to a shameful death; for according to his own words, God will take care of him.

Psalm: Ps 54

The Lord upholds my life.

Second Reading: Jas 3:18

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.

Gospel: Mk 9:31

"The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise."

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daily Readings week of Sunday, September 19, 2021

Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 [6b]/Jas 3:16-4:3/Mk 9:30-37

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt 9:9-13

Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8 [1b]/Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4 [5]/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Lk 9:43b-45

Monthly Offerings - July 2021

Envelopes & Loose Cash	\$ 15,685
We Share Online Giving	\$ 20,936
Total	\$ 36,621

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

YTD Budget (based on last fiscal year)	\$ 34,583
YTD Offering	\$ 36,621
YTD surplus/deficit	\$ 2,038

July - Second Collections

Building & Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,860
Black & Indian Missions	\$ 1,405
Mission Cooperative Plan	\$ 322

Stewardship of Treasure

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, September 19, 2021

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." ~ Mark 9:35



Jesus teaches us that we are called to love one another. Love involves sacrifice.

Sacrifice is a word that many of us don't like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want.

However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is "to make holy," from the words "sacer" = sacred and "facere" = to make. In other words, we make our lives holy by sharing our gifts in the service of God.

In Our Parish

Our Parish Prayers

Please pray for the sick members of our Parish community who have requested our prayers . . .



Roland Boughton, Kaleigh Britton, Gosia Butryn, Kristin Carr, Gina Ceva, Tim Connors, Rina Conti, Jeremiah Crowley, Trudy Dancsecs, Scott Donnelly, Connie Dziomba, Glenn Ehrhardt, Noelle Farmer, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Mary Frattarola, Chris Groh, Toni Kearon, Brian Klecan, Carl Marchese, John McAndrew, Maeve McKendry, Jack Matthew McKendry, Maureen Merola, Moira Noriega, Joyce Peterson, Mona Rai, Sam Scotto, Brenna Slate, Theresa Smerklo, Joseph Sterphone, Linda Sterphone, Steve Swell, Winifred Swiss, Christopher Torney, Earle Tufford & David Whitaker

Please pray for those who have died . . .

Irene Biros - St. Matthew's Parishioner
Helen Nobile - Mother-in-law of Chris Nobile

Gospel Meditation

There is something about being first. Whether it be first in line, first to be picked for the team, or the first one to finish their work, great satisfaction is achieved. Our egos love being first. It somehow sets us apart from everyone else, gives us a sense of pride and positions us to feel better than others. When we are first, we can glory in our efforts, skills, and achievements. Isn't that what really matters? After all, we are taught from a very young age to be proficient, stay on top, be the best at what we do, and win the praise and esteem of others. This is the stuff that makes us successful and provides us with a comfortable, satisfying life.

Jesus wants none of it. All of the details we anguish over mean little to the kingdom of God. You want to be first? Be a servant and welcome a child. All of this is the opposite of our often vehement pursuits. If we are serious about following Jesus and living the Gospel, then we must put the needs of others before our own. If we continue to listen only to the noise of the world, we are going to believe the illusions we inherit. Those illusions come in many forms, but all have things in common: me before you, being on top, us versus them, personal security over universal and peace. When will we learn that always striving to be the best and first is an empty pursuit in our struggle for happiness? While satisfying a momentary boost of esteem may feel good, is it what we really desire?

If we can break from the world's noise and create a space of sacred silence in our lives, we can begin to listen and see that we are being called in another direction. What we really desire is not bolstering our egos but the innocence lost somewhere along the way. When we can be playful, joyful and carefree, life is good. We want our relationships to work, a place to call home and to live peaceful lives. Only a servant can do this. The servant's prayer seeks to detach from self-concern in order to be used by God. Rather than worrying about being first and coming out on top, we can be inspired, guided, empowered, and led to do good works. Stop worrying about being first and put greater energy into feeling joy.

Weekly Events

Saturday., September 18 - Matthew's Men 8:00 am, Bible Study 9:30 am, 9th Grade Confirmation Orientation 3:30 pm, Confession 4:00 pm, Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday, September 19 - *Catechetical Sunday*, Mass 8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:00 am, Faith Formation 9:30 am & 10:00 am sessions, Baptism 12:30 pm & 1:15 pm

Monday, September 20 - Rosary 7:25 am, Mass 8:00 am, Friends of Bill (AA) Meeting 9:30 am

Tuesday, September 21 - Rosary 7:25 am, Mass 8:00 am, Friends of Bill (AA) Meeting 9:30 am, Sunrise Assisted Living 2:00 pm, Eucharistic Adoration 2:00 pm, Rosary 6:00 pm, Scout Troop 109-B 6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 22 - Rosary 7:25 am, Mass 8:00 am, Friends of Bill (AA) Meeting 9:30 am,

Thursday, September 23 - Rosary 7:25 am, Mass 8:00 am, Friends of Bill (AA) Meeting 9:30 am, Choir 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Bible Study 7:00 pm

Friday, September 24 - Rosary 7:25 am, Mass 8:00 am, Friends of Bill (AA) Meeting 9:30 am,

Saturday, September 25 - Marthas & Marys 8:00 am, 10th Grade Confirmation Meeting 3:30 pm. Confession 4:00 pm, Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday, September 26 - Mass 8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:00 am, Faith Formation 8:30 am & 9:30 am sessions

Catholic Life Explained

Why do we do that?

Question: Why are Catholics required to fast before Communion?

Answer: How we prepare for an important event helps us with the intentionality of our actions and raises our awareness. We prepare our house for guests. We wash our car before an important trip. We create a nursery for a newborn child. All of these actions heighten our senses for what is about to come.

The fast required by canon law before holy Communion has its roots in Jewish spiritual practices. We fast for cleansing and to demonstrate our reliance on God. Catholics used to fast for much longer periods of time, but it was Pope Paul VI in 1964 who set the time at one hour in an attempt to encourage people to receive the holy Eucharist more frequently. That one-hour observance allows us to pause and reflect on what we will participate in in the very near future. We deny our bodies so that we can focus more clearly on the Body of Christ that we will consume.



In Our Parish

Bridges Outreach

*Men's Sneaker Collection
Sunday, September 19, 2021*

Bridges Outreach has issued an appeal requesting MEN'S SNEAKERS SIZES 9-13. They are looking for **new or gently used** sneakers. Donations may left in the collection container labeled BRIDGES located in the Gathering Space below the Mary mosaic.



If you would like to make a donation, please drop items off **no later** than Sunday, September, 19, 2021.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday, September 21 - beginning at 2:00 pm

The Risen Lord is asking, "Could you not spend some time with me?" ~ Matthew 26:40



Join us for Eucharistic Adoration and spend time with the Lord on Tuesday, September 21 from 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space. Walk-ins are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Tom and PeggyAnn Meola at (973) 277-7906.

Marthas & Marys Faith in the Time of COVID

Saturday, September 25, 2021 at 8:00 am

Some look upon religion as an immature response to difficult times but science has shown that the positive aspects of faith improve and strengthen our responses. Faith can reframe our outlook with hope and give us a connectedness to higher spiritual goodness. While it is natural and understandable to struggle during difficult times, i.e. feeling angry with God or abandoning our efforts to help ourselves, it actually weakens us.

Whatever your faith experience was during COVID, join us for our first Marthas & Marys of 2021-2022 on September 25, 2021 at 8:00 am in Bauer Hall. We invite you to come explore and share your experiences with fellow pilgrims to help each other travel on.



Marthas & Marys is a women's social group united in faith supporting one another to find the courage to allow God to satisfy our spiritual hunger and to guide our hearts and lives. Join us for a time of community, reflection, discussion and fun. No assignments to complete or homework. Just time with other women. All women are welcome.

10th Grade Confirmation Meeting

Saturday, September 25, 2021 at 3:30 pm

Please note that there will be a 10th Grade parent/student class on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at 3:30 pm for all students/candidates and at least one parent. Please mark the date on your calendar and join us!

St. Matthew's Parish Picnic

Sunday, October 3, 2021 at 12:30 pm

Calling all parishioners! Please join us for a fun afternoon at our annual parish picnic. The picnic will be held at the Freedom Park Pavilion on Sunday, October 3 from 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm.



Tickets are \$5/person or \$10/family. Please sign up on the sign up sheets in the Gathering Space. Please register soon so that the Social Committee can continue to plan! We will be serving grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, salads and desserts.

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Hart at bethhart@optonline.net.

RCIA - To Learn More, Join Us!

If you have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism or Eucharist or Confirmation) here's your opportunity! The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** prepares individuals for receipt of one or more sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation and/or Eucharist. If there are individuals interested in completing their sacraments and would like to know more about the process or how to obtain full communion with the Catholic faith, please contact us as we prepare for our 2021 - 2022 sessions.

If you want to learn more about the RCIA process, which will begin in early October, please call or text Deacon Ed Keegan at (973) 722-1410 or drop an e-mail to: deacon.ed@stmatthewsrandolph.org. If you just want to talk to someone about your situation or that of a person you know who may be interested, please feel free to talk to either Deacon Ed or Fr. Brian. All those seeking any of the Sacraments of Initiation are welcome to join us.

Do You Receive *The Beacon*?

The Beacon is the newspaper of the Paterson Diocese and is published each Thursday. The paper has a circulation of 26k with 100k readers in the Morris, Passaic and Sussex Counties - reaching 40% of Catholics in the areas!

The annual subscription fee for *The Beacon* is now \$30.00 (increased due to the rise in postal costs). Your support in offsetting this cost to the Parish is appreciated. A check made payable to St. Matthew the Apostle Parish may be mailed to the Parish office, left in the gold Parish mailbox or dropped in the weekly collection. Please note *Beacon* subscription in the memo line.



25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



In Our Parish

Hope Builders & Good Neighbors, Inc. 13 year Anniversary

St. Matthew's Hope Builders celebrated its 13th anniversary mission trip with Good Neighbors Inc. in Paintsville, Kentucky the week of July 25, 2021. Fifteen years ago, Jason Benedict began Good Neighbors and through the years it has evolved. "At its heart, Good Neighbors Inc. is about showing God's love through relationships. Relationships that bring hope for self-sufficiency to Appalachian "working poor" families through home repairs." Working with Good Neighbors Inc. has not only changed the lives of the families, but has also changed the lives of our St. Matthew's Hope Builders.

It is estimated that our St. Matthew's Hope Builders have helped approximately 77 families in Johnson County, giving them a hand up and providing them with hope. Today, some of these families have in turn helped others and some actually now work for Good Neighbors. At St. Matthew's, there have been approximately 285 teens and 120 adult chaperones in Hope Builders who have been a part of this extraordinary ministry. I have had the unique privilege of being on all trips working with all of these special St. Matthew's Hope Builders! The first few years I worked on job sites. The last several years I have helped prepare the meals with Jason's mom, Pauline and Mary Anne Smallwood. Each year, I am humbled by the special gifts and talents each of our Hope Builders possess and share with the people of Kentucky. The job sites are challenging (to put it mildly) but each site is holy ground where God is present and life giving. As Jason's dad Bob says, "God is here to put the Super on the natural!"

***Please keep an eye out for information on our Reunion/
Kickoff Meeting in October for our 2022 Trip!***

~Moiria Dziomba
Director of Faith Formation

*Please visit the Good Neighbors, Inc. website to learn more and watch a video of our teens in action!
www.goodneighbors-inc.org

Sacrament of Baptism

The St. Matthew's Faith Community is proud to welcome Reagan James Coleman to the Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism.

We pray that Reagan and his family become full and active members of our Parish and that they find a spiritual home at St. Matthew's!



Pray the Rosary

Weekday mornings at 7:25 am
Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm



Pray the Rosary with us every morning at 7:25 am (before 8:00 am Mass) in Church and on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm. Join us as we reflect upon the life of Jesus and Mary.

Hope Builders

This year **Jillian Borruso** joined us for the first time as a chaperone and this is what she had to say:

There is something for everyone going on a service/mission Hope Builders trip. The students learn about safety on a construction site, home improvement tools, collaboration with peers and adults, and sharing cleaning responsibilities. Students also discover life in Eastern Kentucky, humility and gratitude for their own experiences, and the important work of serving God through service to others.

Even as a chaperone, I learned how to safely use new tools and gained confidence as I became more independent with them. I personally helped to build a front porch and trim the interior of a trailer. One of my favorite parts of the trip was playing with the owners' young grandchildren and listening to the locals' life stories. After we left, the couple was able to move back into their home. All of the Hope Builders were touched by the impact they made. The couple's warmth and gratitude was wonderfully overwhelming! Having an active high school church youth group is very meaningful so students can bond through Christ with their peers as they navigate their teen years. It's a wonderful experience to stretch outside your comfort zone within the safe purview of a church service/mission trip. I really recommend that parents and older siblings have conversations with their high schoolers about serving God through this beautiful ministry. Feel free to reach out to me at one of our youth group events or fundraising events to ask any questions.

The View from the Back of the Line

Have you known that person? The one who leaves every person they encounter feeling a little more blessed for having met them? They're the friend you can count on when nothing is going well. They're the one who's always "doing" for others. They're never gossiping or complaining. We wonder how they do it, how they have it in them. We're a little envious, even if we don't let ourselves acknowledge it.

That, folks, is what the view is like from the front of the line, gazing at those suckers in the way back and wondering why they're smiling so much. We've all been at the front of a line and felt no shame about it. We show up early, we put in the time and the legwork, and we *earn* whatever it is we came for - sports tickets, the latest Apple product, whatever. That's how it works here on Earth, where the fastest win the race, the fittest survive and the first shall be first, always.

It's exactly why stewardship is such a tall order. Stewardship calls us to play by the rules of another kingdom - one where the richest have the least amount in their bank accounts and the happiest don't seem to have anything to show for it, at least materially. If you have a person in your life who always seems happy "doing" for others, it's because by a boatload of God's grace, they play by the rules of the other place.

Watch and take notes - and don't be afraid to join them at the back of the line.

~ Tracy Earl Welliver, MT
As printed from LPI

In Our Parish

Connect - Sunday Reflection

Who's on First?

How we define the word "success" matters. Success is associated with the attainment of some goal or purpose. Taken on face value, this definition is not incompatible with what Jesus teaches. Being people of mercy and peace, for example, are certainly worthy goals in our Lord's eyes. However, we run into trouble when the goals and purpose associated with our understanding of success are self-serving rather than in service of the Kingdom of God. We are so conditioned to put our efforts into obtaining privilege and status that we forget about matters of the soul and the heart. These often get pushed aside in our pursuit of more tangible, measurable, secular gains.

What about the essence of our being: our soul? Our world does a great job convincing us of the illusion that being first is best. Whether it be first in line, first to be picked for the team, getting into our first choice for college, first to finish their work or first in my social group to earn the most money, great satisfaction is supposedly achieved. Our egos can easily become our gods and we live this strangely attached yet sadly detached life where we are both connected and disengaged. Life becomes "something we do," a series of predestined roles we play on the road to success. Our stages are set with all of the pieces we think we need to get us where we think we need to go. We dance from one to the next, barely taking time to breathe, as we touch each component making certain everything is where it needs to be. Yet in doing so, we tire of playing the puppeteer of our life's characters and pieces, leaving our souls parched, lifeless and arid.

It is no wonder that St. Oscar Romero wisely said to, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." It is better to have our life stage set with less so that we can be more fully present, rather than set with multiple things in competition for our time. Quality, not quantity, matters most in the Kingdom of God. Jesus wants nothing to do with our secularly success driven lives. He sees no more value in those pursuits than he did with the money changers in the temple. In being consumed with our own personal advancement over a true investment of ourselves in life, we become no better than those money changers. The illusions are the same: me before you, the top is better than the bottom, us versus them, personal security and safety over universal harmony and peace, making more and more money versus time-honored principles and virtues such as honesty, kindness, and love.

Connect - Sunday Reflection

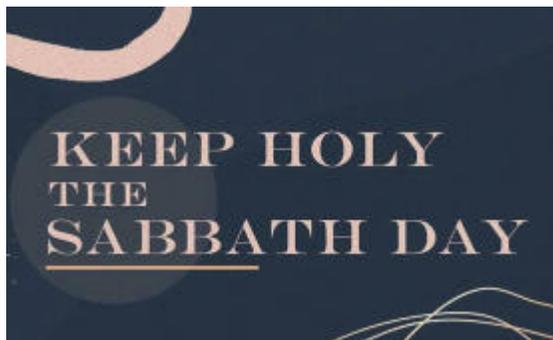
Who's on First? (cont'd)

The world and its people are in crisis. As a result, faith and family are suffering. We are often so confused trying to figure out "what's" important that it's not even funny. Our young families, especially, suffer. Running from one thing to another: dance recitals, hockey games, baseball games, karate, swimming, music lessons, and other extracurricular activities leaves everyone exhausted. One after another of these "necessities" for success take time away from "simply being" together as a family, properly worshipping God, and savoring life. We convince ourselves that all of these steps are necessary so our children can become successful. While each is fine to pursue in its own right, the way the package often comes together is destructive. Yet, we are overlooking what we really need to work on: our souls.

What we don't realize is that human beings have lost something very important along the way in life: innocence. We also don't realize that we really want and need it back. We get confused thinking that the "hole" we are feeling deep within is meant to be filled with something else. Only Jesus restores our lost innocence. There is wisdom to God's wonderful commandment to "keep holy the Sabbath day." We need a day of intentional worship and playful rest. When we can connect with the truth of God in Word and Eucharist, it makes all the difference in the world. We realize that the stages of our lives are not things that require the management of a skilled puppeteer but instead require the embrace and investment of a loving, engaged servant. In keeping the Sabbath holy, we also can find time in life's business to celebrate and play! When we can be playful, joyful, and even somewhat carefree, life is good. Relationships are things to be celebrated and enjoyed.

That's why Jesus loved the image of a child. There is a playful innocence about children. They don't manage life, they live it! They also want to do things for you, especially if you are someone they respect, admire, or idolize. There is no selfish ambition present in the innocent child, only the desire to please. Thus we have here the makings of a good servant, one who is detached from a preoccupation with self so that they can be used by God in service of others. We cannot be useful instruments to God unless we begin to perfect the "ministry of being." And we cannot begin to do that until we rid ourselves of the world's illusions and invest ourselves in the Kingdom of God. When we make that challenging choice, the tables begin to turn. We may find ourselves moving to a lesser place in the world's eyes but to a more prominent place in God's eyes. Sadly, however, many find all of this too challenging.

St. Oscar Romero continues with words of wisdom when he says, "Beautiful is the moment in which we understand that we are no more than an instrument of God; we live only as long as God wants us to live; we can only do as much as God makes us able to do; we are only as intelligent as God would have us be." Now there is a recipe for success! Imagine what the world would look like if we all really believed this and taught this as a firm and necessary lesson to our children! We could actually stop worrying about being first and experience the joy of life. And when we experience joy, we experience God; who is life for our souls.



In & Around Town

Interfaith Furnishings

Interfaith Furnishings is in great need in the following categories: volunteers, directors and financial support.

Our directors and many of our volunteers are in need of replacement - age can do that. We are looking for replacements for several positions - president, directors and volunteer coordinators for various congregations. Please contact Mary Jo at (973) 361-1666 if you are willing to offer help or have any questions about what we do.

Our expenses have increased, particularly with fuel for our truck. Normally we would not ask for contributions until November, but we must do so now as we did not request contributions from our participating congregations or the parishioners during last year's shutdown (and we were shut down only three months as needs continued).



Please consider the value of our mission - to help neighbors in need - by helping us to continue our mission of providing furniture for the needy from donations from our community.

See our website interfaithfurnishings.org for information on what we do and how we do it. We cannot do it without you.

Sisters of Christian Charity

8th Annual Golf Outing



Please join us at the 8th Annual Sisters of Christian Charity Golf Outing on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at the beautiful Cedar Hill Country Club in Livingston. Individual golfers, foursomes and sponsors are welcome.

For further information or to register online, please visit their website: www.scceast.org/golf-outing or email Elaine Thornberry sccommissionadvancement@gmail.com.

Sisters of Christian Charity

Registered Nurse Needed

The Sisters of Christian Charity are looking for an RN for our night shift to coordinate and oversee the care plan of our Sisters at our Mother House in Mendham. We are looking for a compassionate person with a strong work ethic. BSN required with a minimum of three years in long-term care.

Please contact the Business Manager, Eileen Davis, at bus.manager@scceast.org or call (973) 230-5368.

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