



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

February 2022

My dear parishioners,

Lent is almost here! It begins on Ash Wednesday, **March 2**. As we were preparing for Lent last year, the dangers of COVID-19 were steadily coming into focus. It was a very difficult year. We now have the omicron variant, though it seems to be subsiding. Still, we are unsettled and uncertain.

Many offices remain closed. Employees are working remotely from their homes.

Schools are in a state of confusion – masks or no masks, required or optional?

If we go out for dinner, do we need to present our vaccination card?

And Mass attendance - where are our parishioners? Still worried, not sure it is safe to return to Sunday worship?

When will all this end? Once again, **Lent offers us hope**—a time to give thanks to God for his love, comfort, and mercy, knowing as we do that, as uncertainty continues, so does **God's sacrificial love** for us.

We Need Lent

As Christians we believe that **Jesus shared his life with us**; he is our friend, brother, and companion. This is the hope that awakens us each day. This is the power that spurs us on with enthusiasm. This is our hope: to live in light, in the light of Jesus.

We need Lent this year more than ever.

We are still **challenged as a nation**. In our deeply divided country there is a great need for civility, dialogue, and peaceful expression of concerns. Respect for one another and a willingness to dialogue and learn from one another are essential. There is no other way if we are to be **faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ**.

We are **challenged as Catholics**. Mass attendance is down, and for those who are able to attend—masks and sanitizing for all present, and no drinking from the cup. These months have been rough. How do we continue as Church? We wait, pray, and hope. But we still question. **Where is Jesus in all of this?**

We need a renewed personal encounter with Jesus, who **IS here**, next to us, reaching out to us with open arms. Jesus is our only real hope. We look to the future, with Jesus, working together towards a **renewed Church** right here in our midst, guided by His Holy Spirit. If you haven't participated in one of the Synod listening sessions at St. Matthew's yet, **please come to the Great Hall for our final February session on Sunday, February 27 at 6:30pm (in English) and join in the Church's heart-to-heart conversation and dialogue as we discern the Spirit's call before beginning this Lenten season.**

We Also Need One Another's Support

Our challenges also are financial. In the fall of 2020 I wrote to you about the significant decline in financial contributions due to the pandemic. We had taken advantage of the PPP loan, restructured positions, hours, and salaries. Needing hope? You bet!! As your rector I kept looking for it.

Thank God for FaithDirect And then, Jesus brought us **Advent/Christmas hope fulfilled** – oh, how sweet it was! Parishioners and Friends responded, delivering the needed support for our parish ministries and programs, and the running of the rectory office.

Christmas 2021, however, did not bring as bright a story, as these income statistics show:

	<i>Year 2021</i>	Budgeted
Christmas at the Cathedral	\$ 68,413	\$ 90,000
Friends of the Cathedral mailing	\$ 65,527	\$ 105,000

We are facing the prospect of an overall budget shortfall and the consequences; yet, I have faith. I believe in you. I know you will respond to the need. Jesus is the world's ultimate hope, and **we are his hands and feet** in our homes and workplaces, and in the public square. **Sustained giving is key to the survival** of our parish ministries and programs, and of the infrastructure that makes these possible. Close to home for us at St. Matthew's, our forecasted expenses include the cost of several repairs that cannot be postponed another year, including repairs to our gutter system, and to the Cathedral dome and front steps.

We are all called to commit to **good stewardship**, giving generously from what we have, recognizing that in the end, **all is gift, all is grace**. Are you among the two-thirds of parishioners who have not given a recognizable gift to the parish? If so, I ask – **will you please begin to give** something from what you have? We need ALL our members. Please, determine what you can afford, and **enroll in Faith Direct** at <https://membership.faithdirect.net/enroll/DC284> or call Pam Erwin at 202-587-5150, who will assist.

I am so grateful and sincerely appreciate and continue to count on your support.

Lenten Liturgies

There is no better way to heed the clarion call of Lent than to join the Church in the celebration of the liturgies. The prayers and readings—the Liturgy of the Word—and the Liturgy of the Eucharist give us the strength and guidance to journey through the desert to the empty tomb of promise, to rise with Christ on Easter Sunday after having been plunged into his death at our Baptism. If we journey with integrity, then we will arrive at the tomb and see the future, and, indeed, **share in his resurrection**.

On **Ash Wednesday, March 2** we are reminded of the need for our inner conversion, for the rending of our hearts, not our garments, and for our return to the Lord our God. (Joel 2:13) Masses with the distribution of ashes will be celebrated at **7:30am, 11am, 12:10pm (Cardinal Gregory), 5:30pm, and 7pm (Spanish)**.

Attached you will find information on our **Lenten offerings** (our Holy Week and Easter schedule are on the website calendar, and a listing will be sent in my March letter). We hope you will take part in many of the prayer, devotional, faith formation, social justice, and music events, many of which will be livestreamed. Be sure to check our website at www.stmatthewscathedral.org for all the latest news. Please keep the staff and me in your prayers and be assured of my prayers for a blessed Lent.

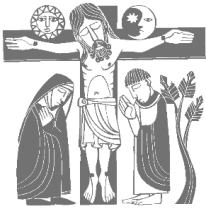
Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson

Rector

rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org



CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

2022 Lenten Schedule

Spanish Language Prayer and Formation

- Ash Wednesday, March 2 | **Spanish Mass** at 7pm followed by **Vía Crucis**
- Every day at 3pm and 8pm | **Daily Spanish Prayer** via conference call (no 8pm prayer on March 2 or 8). Join by phone at +1 347-378-0694, PIN 283 201 937#
- February 26/27 | Choose a seminarian, deacon or priest card from the **Vocations Tree** at the Cathedral entrance and pray for him during Lent (photo cards in English & Spanish)
- Tuesday, March 8 at 7pm | **Spanish Prayer Group, Lenten talk with Auxiliary Bishop Mario Dorsonville** in the Cathedral, and presentation of Confirmation candidates to the Bishop
- Saturday, March 12 from 10am to 1pm | **Lenten Retreat led by Fr. Benson** in the Cathedral

English Language Prayer and Formation

- Ash Wednesday, March 2 | **Masses with Distribution of Ashes** at 7:30am, 11am, 12:10pm, 5:30pm, and **Stations of the Cross** at 3pm, with a brief reflection after each Station
- February 26/27 | See **Vocations Tree**, above
- February 27 and all Sundays of Lent from 3:30 to 5pm, or February 28 and all Mondays of Lent from 7 to 8:30pm | **Gospel of Luke, Part Two Study** (via Zoom) Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/GospelofLuke.
- Saturday, March 5 from 9am to 1pm | **Lenten Morning Retreat, "The Essence of Prayer,"** West Conference Room. Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/LentenRetreat2022.
- Tuesdays, March 8, 22, & 29 and April 5, from 7 to 8:30pm | **The Carmelite Mystics** with Fr. Steven Payne, OCD (via Zoom). Visit <https://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/CarmeliteMystics>.
- Sundays of Lent from 9:30 to 10:45am | **Spiritual Talks: Learning the Gospel Program for Waking Up** (via Zoom) Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/SpiritualTalks.

Almsgiving

- February 26/27 | **Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl**. Pick up a Rice Bowl in the Cathedral after Mass or visit our Parish Rice Bowl webpage at <https://tinyurl.com/2bmjxan4> to donate directly to CRS Rice Bowl.
- Fridays of Lent at 6:30pm, following Stations of the Cross | **Simple Lenten Refreshments with the opportunity to donate to local charities**, Cathedral front steps. Donate to any of these organizations via check (payable to Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle with organization name on memo line) or via [PayPal](#) or [FaithDirect](#).
- March 26/27 | **Lenten Food Drive with Knights of Columbus** | Details available soon.
- March 26/27, and April 2/3 & 9/10 | **Adopt-a-Family Easter Gift Card Drive**. Volunteers collect donations of cash and grocery gift cards after Masses. Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/AAFEaster.
- **St. Matthew's Social Justice Ministries** | Donate via check (payable to Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle with "Social Justice Ministries" or the name of a particular Social Justice Ministry on memo line) or visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/SMSocialJustice and scroll to the bottom for options to give online to individual ministries via **PayPal**.

Stations of the Cross

- Ash Wednesday | 3pm (English) and 8pm Via Crucis (Spanish)
- Fridays of Lent | 6pm (English)
- Sundays of Lent | 2pm (Spanish)

Confessions

- Monday – Friday | 11am – Noon
- Mondays of Lent | 6 – 7pm
- Saturday | 4 – 5pm
- Sundays, March 13 & April 3 at 2pm (following Mass in Spanish, during Stations of the Cross)
- By appointment | call the rectory office at 202-347-3215

Music

- Wednesday, March 16 at 12:40pm, following the 12:10pm Mass | **Organ Recital by Nancy Freitas Novelty** (in-person and [livestreamed](#)) Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/March2022Recital.

Ongoing

- **Mass Times**
 - **Sunday** | 7am, 9am, 11am, 1pm (Spanish) and 5:30pm (11am & 1pm Masses livestreamed)
 - **Weekday** | 7:30am, 12:10pm, and 5:30pm
 - **Saturday** | 7:30am, 12:10pm, and 5:30pm (Vigil) Saturday
- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** | 11am - Noon, Monday – Friday, and 6 – 7pm on Monday, March 21 at Eucharistic Holy Hour
- **Meditation Groups via Zoom** | Sundays at 1:30pm & Wednesdays at 8pm
<https://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/Meditation>
- **Cathedral † Young Adults** | Sundays at 6:30pm in the North Conference Room or the Cathedral, as announced. Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/CYA2022.
- **Monday Morning Ministry** | Mondays at 8am. Donate breakfast foods, bagged lunches or clothing, or serve on Monday mornings. Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/MondayMorningMinistry.
- **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)** | Wednesdays at 7pm via Zoom. Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/RCIA2022.
- **Celebration of the Word** | Thursdays at 7pm in the East Conference Room with Fr. John Benson. Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/Word.
- **Adult Confirmation Preparation** | Classes via Zoom begin Sunday, April 3. Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/AdultConfirmation.
- **Rosary for Life** | Saturday, March 26 at 8am
- **First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** | 12:45 – 5pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel
- **First Saturday Devotions** | following the 12:10pm Mass
- **Always God's Children** | Sunday, March 13 in the West Conference Room. Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/AGCMarch2022.

Staff Contacts

For more information, email our staff members, or call the rectory office at 202-347-3215 between 9am and 4pm any day of the week. After hours, please leave a voice mail message.

Hispanic Liturgy & Ministries

Fr. John Benson, Parochial Vicar at jbenson@stmatthewscathedral.org

Fatima Aybar, Coordinator for Spanish Faith Formation at faybar@stmatthewscathedral.org

Faith Formation and Meditation

L.J. Milone, Director of Faith Formation at ljmilone@stmatthewscathedral.org

Music Events & Special Liturgies

Thomas Stehle, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy & Director of Music Ministries at tstehle@stmatthewscathedral.org

Social Justice Ministries and Almsgiving

Norma Canedo, Coordinator for Social Justice at ncanedo@stmatthewscathedral.org

Fr. John Benson, Parochial Vicar at jbenson@stmatthewscathedral.org

FaithDirect, PayPal, Offertory giving

Pam Erwin, Business Manager at perwin@stmatthewscathedral.org

See the website calendar at www.stmatthewscathedral.org/April2022 for Holy Week liturgies.

Find our livestreams & videos on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/c/cathedralofstmatthewtheapostle.