



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

March 2011

My dear parishioners,

Believe it or not, Lent is almost here! Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, **March 9**. The Lenten season is filled with many challenges and opportunities. The greatest of these is not to turn it into solely an individual journey, but to recognize it as a journey that we share with our faith family, the Church. Lent is for the Church, the people of God who make up the Mystical Body of Christ, and as such, we journey as one.

Let God Draw You Close this Lent!

Father Joseph Creedon, in *Crossing the Desert*, has this to say about Lent:

It seems ...as if we are afraid of getting too close to God. Perhaps we are afraid of the goodness. Maybe we think life is going to be dull if we draw too close. It could be that we are afraid of giving up the illusion that we are in charge of our lives.

Lent is all about letting ourselves be loved by God, reconciled with God. Since God never stops loving us, never stops trying to draw close to us, never abandons us, we are the ones who must change. Lent is daring to believe once again that we can let ourselves be close to God, that the goodness of God will not overshadow us but empower us. God's goodness will enrich our lives and help us believe in what we can accomplish if we will just stop fighting God.



To the women of the parish, *Accept the invitation and come away with the Lord this Lent!* Our Cathedral Club is sponsoring St. Matthew's annual women's weekend retreat, to be held **April 1-3** at Washington Retreat House in Northeast Washington, DC. Parishioners and friends are invited and welcome. For more information or to register, call Mary Latka at 202-232-3261 or pick up an information letter and reservation form at the Rectory. Consider this call to let the Lord draw you closer to Him this Lent.

Lenten Liturgies and Recollection

Lent is a special time in the life of a parish. 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 will give us the strength and the guidance to make the journey through the desert to the empty tomb of promise, to rise with Christ on Easter Sunday after being plunged into his death at our Baptism. If we make the journey with integrity, then we will arrive at the tomb and see the future, and, indeed, share in his resurrection.

Once again this year, the Cathedral will offer ample opportunities to prepare ourselves during Lent for this great Feast of the Resurrection of the Lord. Enclosed is our Lenten brochure (also found on our website at www.stmatthewscathedral.org), which I urge you to keep close at hand in the weeks ahead. And don't be shy about picking up extra copies in the Cathedral or at the Rectory for your family, friends and co-workers.

As I noted above, Lent begins on **March 9** with our celebration of **Ash Wednesday** when we will wear the sign of penitence as a reminder 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*)

The **Stations of the Cross**, in the form adopted by Pope John Paul II, will be celebrated in English on the Fridays of Lent at 6pm and in Spanish on Sundays at 2:15pm. The Stations of the Cross, or Via Crucis, are a journey made in the Holy Spirit, that divine fire that burned in the heart of Jesus and brought him to Calvary. I urge you to take advantage of this beautiful devotion, which is particularly fitting for Lent.

Here at St. Matthew's, beginning with the **Wednesday** of the first week of Lent until Holy Week, priests will be available for **confessions** in both English and Spanish from 6:30pm until 8:00 pm. Note that we will still hold our regularly scheduled confessions on weekdays, 11am-noon and on Saturdays from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. In addition, on Tuesday, **April 19**, we will hold a **Communal Penance Service** at 12:10pm with approximately 20 priests available for individual confessions after the brief service.

Join us for "**What Jesus Saw From the Cross**," our annual **Lenten Day of Recollection**, on Saturday, **March 12**. Dominican Father Michael McCormack returns to guide us in prayer and reflection on the themes of the Cross as the call to conversion and the mark of discipleship and God's love revealing the meaning of suffering. An excellent way to begin your Lenten journey, this morning retreat will begin at 9:00am in the North Conference Room and will conclude with our 12:10pm Mass. All are welcome. A freewill offering will be taken. Please RSVP to Heather Kinney at hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org.

On Sunday, **March 13**, our catechumens and candidates will travel to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to participate with Cardinal Wuerl in the **Rite of Election**. Please keep these men and women in your prayers.

The Holy Mass & the New Roman Missal—Lenten Immersion

The way we pray, the words and gestures we use in worship, are extremely important to our identity as Catholics. I use this beginning of Lent to inform you of a change in the way we pray that you will be hearing about over the next year. ***New Words: A Deeper Meaning, But the Same Mass – The Roman Missal, Third Edition***, the ritual text containing prayers and instructions for the celebration of the Mass, has been approved and will be used on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011. As we at St. Matthew's prepare to welcome the Roman Missal, we hope this will be a time of deepening, nurturing, and celebrating our faith through the renewal of our worship and the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy. Prior to Lent, many of you read bulletin inserts that were helpful in renewing awareness of the elements of the Church's Liturgy. As Lent begins, you will find lectures and bulletin inserts that will help guide you through this process.

It is my pleasure to announce "**Become One Body, One Spirit in Christ**," our Lenten Lecture Series that will open up the beauty of the Mass and Liturgy to us. The presentations will be given by members of the Cathedral staff (see the back of the next page). I invite you to join me for "**A Walk through the Mass**" on Wednesday, **March 16** at 12:45pm or Thursday, **March 17** at 7:00pm. The talks following will include "**Scripture and the Mass**," "**History of the Mass**," "**Crafting the Art of Liturgy**," and "**Living a Eucharistic Life**." This series begins on Wednesday, **March 16** and continues every following Wednesday and Thursday in Lent in the North Conference Room. Wednesday lectures will be given from 12:45pm to 1:45pm, and Thursday lectures will be given from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. All are welcome at any or all lectures. A freewill offering will be taken. Cardinal Wuerl has recently written a book on the Mass entitled ***The Mass: The Glory, the Mystery, the Tradition***—a fine addition to our Lenten discussion. It will be available for purchase for \$20 at the lectures.

Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, Pastor of Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, MD, will speak on "**Go Live the Mass**" as part of his series of monthly talks on Wednesday, **April 6** at 6:00pm (following the 5:30pm Mass) in the East Conference Room. See www.johncarrollsociety.org for more information about the John Carroll Society, which sponsors this series.

Adult Confirmation Preparation—Register by April 1

Did you know that St. Matthew's offers a five-week preparation program for active adult Catholics who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation? We invite all baptized adult Catholics who have received First Eucharist but not Confirmation to take advantage of this great opportunity!

Sessions will be held on Thursdays, *May 5, 12, 19, 26 and June 2* from 7:00pm to 8:30pm with a retreat on Saturday, *June 4*. We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on Pentecost Sunday, *June 12*. For more information or to register, please contact Heather Kinney at hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org. Please plan to register no later than Friday, April 1. (This preparation is only for those baptized Catholics who have already celebrated their First Eucharist. For others, please contact Heather Kinney to discuss participation in the RCIA process.)

Sharing the Vision of the Kingdom

Following the exhortations of Popes Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI on proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our Archbishop, Cardinal Wuerl, recently issued ***Disciples of the Lord: Sharing the Vision, A Pastoral Letter on the New Evangelization***. He encouraged parishes to renew, broaden and be more active and creative in their efforts to promote the good news of Jesus, not only in their personal lives, but also in ways that would invite the return of many disaffected Catholics and would attract others to be initiated fully into the faith we profess.

With the Cardinal's letter in mind, I am establishing a special cathedral pastoral team to foster evangelization in the many facets of our parish life, liturgy and all forms of ministry. Over the course of the next several months and beyond, the team will be using our various forms of media (electronic, printed, etc.), parish activities and personal contacts to promote evangelization throughout not only the parish but the larger community we affect in our daily contacts. To paraphrase Cardinal Wuerl's letter, the seeds of Christ in America began with those few pilgrims who set foot on the shores of Maryland in 1634 and has borne great fruit. Like our ancestors, we are called by our baptism to be sowers as well and be as zealous in planting, nurturing and cultivating the many around us to be a new harvest for Christ. I hope that each of you will join in this effort and be active promoters of His message.

Young Adults—Let Us Hear From You!

It is beautiful to have such a diverse group of people belonging to our Cathedral parish. We are particularly interested in reaching out to young adults who might be new to the area for school or for work. If you are a young adult and haven't had a chance to meet many other parishioners like yourself, get in the know about what's going on by visiting <http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/join/young-adults>. If you are interested in social, service or spiritual events beyond what we have here, please contact Father Regan in the rectory with your ideas!

A New Tool—Ministry Scheduler Pro

In January, some of our liturgical ministers began testing a scheduling software called Ministry Scheduler Pro. We hope that this program will help us keep in touch and coordinate schedules of various liturgical ministries. While the coordinators and the staff familiarize themselves with the program, we thank you for your patience and your continued dedication to serving as a liturgical minister at St Matthew's.

The Lenten season is always a very busy one around the Cathedral. Please check our website at www.stmatthewscathedral.org regularly to stay updated on events and offerings. Please also keep the staff and me in your prayers and be assured of my prayers and personal best wishes for a blessed season of Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector

Enclosure



Lenten Lecture Series

Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle

BECOME ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT IN CHRIST

“The Mass most clearly identifies us as Catholic,” Cardinal Donald Wuerl recently wrote in a letter to Catholics throughout the Archdiocese of Washington. “To paraphrase Saint Anselm, our faith should seek understanding. The more fully we understand what we are saying and doing, the more deeply we can experience the Mass.” As the English-speaking world prepares for the implementation of the new translation of the Roman Missal this coming Advent, the St. Matthew’s Cathedral staff invites you to our Lenten Lecture Series, which will focus on enriching our understanding and deepening our appreciation of the Eucharist, the Church’s central act of worship.

Week 1 (Wednesday, March 16 or Thursday, March 17)

A WALK THROUGH THE MASS

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson, Rector

Week 2 (Wednesday, March 23 or Thursday, March 24)

SCRIPTURE AND THE MASS

Rev. Kevin Regan, Parochial Vicar

Week 3 (Wednesday, March 30 or Thursday, March 31)

HISTORY OF THE MASS

Deacon Bartholomew Merella

Week 4 (Wednesday, April 6 or Thursday, April 7)

CRAFTING THE ART OF LITURGY

Mr. Thomas Stehle, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Director of Music Ministries

Week 5 (Wednesday, April 13 or Thursday, April 14)

LIVING A EUCHARISTIC LIFE

Ms. Heather Kinney, Director of Faith Formation

Wednesday lectures: 12:45pm to 1:45pm

Thursday lectures: 7pm to 8pm

All lectures will be held in the North Conference Room.

Follow the directional signs to the lectures. Lectures are free and open to the public. Join us for any or all.

No RSVP necessary.

Questions? Email hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org or call 202-347-3215, x530.

St. Matthew’s Cathedral

1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW • Washington DC 20036

202-347-3215 • www.stmatthewscathedral.org

Metro: Red Line to Farragut North or Dupont Circle

Parking: limited metered street parking or public garage next to Cathedral

(\$7 per hour before 4pm-\$14 daily max or \$5 flat fee after 4pm)