

TODAY'S READINGS

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. (Luke 3:16)

When we think about the baptism of Jesus, three different baptisms come to mind: his baptism in the Jordan River, his baptism on the cross, and his desire to baptize us in his Holy Spirit.

First, when he was baptized by John, Jesus showed how deeply he wanted to be joined with all of us, sinners though we are. As St. Paul explained, Jesus became sin for us so that in him "we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Through his baptism, he took on our sin and carried it with him until the day of his death on the cross.

Second, there is Jesus' baptism on the cross. He once told his disciples, "There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!" (Luke 12:50). When James and John wanted Jesus to guarantee them a special place in heaven, he replied: "Can you ... be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" (Mark 10:38). He knew that his cross was the culmination of everything that his baptism in water began. All the sin that he accepted was put to death, and we were redeemed!

But it doesn't end at the cross. Third, Scripture tells us that Jesus now wants to baptize all of us "with the Holy Spirit" (Luke 3:16). He wants to share the fruit of his baptism with us by immersing us in his Holy Spirit—just as he baptized the first apostles on Pentecost.

Today's feast is an invitation for us to ask, "Do I know the freedom from sin that Jesus' baptism won for me?" It's also an invitation to ask, "How well do I know the Holy Spirit?" Just as the Spirit came upon him when he was baptized, this same Spirit wants to come upon us and empower us to live a godly life.

"Thank you, Jesus, for being baptized for me. Now come and fill me with your Spirit!"

Taken from *The Word Among Us*, January 2016, Vol. 35, Number 2: Used with permission.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 10	Is 42:1-4,6-7 / Acts 10:34-38 / <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	Lk 3:15-16,21-22
Monday 11	1 Sm 1:1-8 / Mk 1:14-20	
Tuesday 12	1 Sm 1:9-20 / Mk 1:21-28	
Wednesday 13	1 Sm 3:1-10,19-20 / Mk 1:29-39	
	<i>St. Hilary</i>	
Thursday 14	1 Sm 4:1-11 / Mk 1:40-45	
Friday 15	1 Sm 8:4-7,10-22 / Mk 2:1-12	
Saturday 16	1 Sm 9:1-4,17-19; 10:1 / Mk 2:13-17	
Sunday 17	Is 62:1-5 / 1 Cor 12:4-11 / Jn 2:1-11	

PARISH CALENDAR

January 10 - 17

Sunday 10—Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The Children's Hospital Blood Van is in front of the Cathedral from 9:30am to 2:30pm for the Blood Drive. Children's Faith Formation classes meet at 9:45am at St. Matthew's Education Center.

Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar continúan a las 11:00 de la mañana.

Cardinal Wuerl is the celebrant and homilist at the 11:30am Mass.

Always God's Children meets in the West Conference Room at 3:30pm.

RCIA Sunday Dismissal is held at the 5:30pm Mass.

Monday 11—The Cathedral Book Club meets at 6:45pm in the West Conference Room.

Tuesday 12—The Stewardship Committee meets at 6:45pm in the East Conference Room.

Legión de María se reúne a las 5:30 de la tarde hasta las 7 en el salón del Oeste.

El grupo de Oración se reúne a las 7 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Oeste.

Wednesday 13 – RCIA meets at 7pm in the North Conference Room (newcomers welcome!).

Sunday 17—A second collection for Church Missions within the U.S. is taken at all Masses.

Children's Faith Formation classes meet at 9:45am at St. Matthew's Education Center.

Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar continúan a las 11:00 de la mañana.

Padre Rafael tendrá las confesiones después de la misa de 1 de la tarde.

YOUNG ADULTS

YA Retreat – January 15-17 – Join young adults across the Archdiocese **January 15-17** at the St. John Paul II Shrine for a retreat focused on rooting our personal identity in God by reflecting on the life of each person of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Spirit. The retreat (not overnight) features talks by Dominican priests, small group reflections, Adoration and confession, and Mass. Register at dccatholic.eventbrite.com.

Mardis Gras Pancake Party – February 7 – The Young Adults invite all to a Pancake Party on Sunday, **February 7** after Masses beginning at 9am. Join your parish family for pancakes, sausage and more in the North Conference Room. Admission is \$10. Proceeds benefit C+YA and the Social Justice & Community Services Committee. To volunteer, email stmattsyam@gmail.com.

NEWS AND NOTES

Always God's Children – Always God's Children, the Cathedral parish's ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics and their families and friends, meets on Sunday, **January 10** at 3:30pm in the West Conference Room.

Collection for Church Missions within the U.S. – Next weekend, **January 16-17**, the second collection will be for Church Missions within the U.S. This combined collection supports home mission dioceses in the U.S. that are unable to offer their people basic liturgical, pastoral, and service ministries without outside help, and vulnerable Black and Native American communities with funds for parish support and evangelization. Please give generously, as you are able.

Federal Holiday – Monday, **January 18** is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a Federal holiday. The Cathedral will open at 7:30am and close at 1pm. Masses will be at 8am and 12:10pm with no Confessions. The Rectory offices will be closed. **Our Eucharistic Holy Hour, normally held on the third Monday of the month, is rescheduled to Monday, January 25.**

2015 Contribution Statements – In an effort to go “green,” Year-End-Contribution Statements will be prepared upon request. To receive a summary of your 2015 contributions, please contact Gloria Harrington at 202-347-3215 x 517 or gharrington@stmatthewscathedral.org.

CARDINAL'S APPEAL

Many parishioners will receive a mailing from Cardinal Wuerl this week asking them to pledge to the 2016 Cardinal's Appeal. The Appeal funds not only the operations of the archdiocese, but services that are of great help to St. Matthew's Cathedral parish. For example, Appeal funds provide financial support for the seminarians from our parish and educational seminars and conferences for our priests. The Appeal theme is “Seek First the Kingdom of God.” (Matthew 6:33) As we seek first God's kingdom, we have the capability of helping to make it present in the world around us through our works of charity, love and compassion. Contributing to the Appeal offers an opportunity to respond to the needs of others by enabling ministries and services that touch thousands of lives. Please prayerfully consider a generous pledge to the 2016 Cardinal's Appeal. Thank you.

FAITH IN ACTION

Volunteers Needed for English & Spanish Adult Language Programs

When? **February 3 to April 29** (12 weeks)
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
6:30-8:30pm

Where? St. Matthew's Education Center
1726 N Street, NW

Formal ESL or SSL training is not necessary; a friendly demeanor and desire to help our students suffice! We need people who can commit to teaching or tutoring one night a week. Teachers are assigned one 2-hour class each week with a co-teacher, and are given textbooks to guide lesson planning. English classes are offered at Levels 1 - 5, and Spanish classes at Levels 1 - 3. Tutors are asked to be available one night a week from 6 to 6:30pm. Volunteer orientation will be given on **January 27** at 6:30pm. Contact: Dan Horning at stmatts.esl@gmail.com or stmattsssl@gmail.com.

RESPECT LIFE

Adult and Family Rally & Mass for Life – The Archdiocese of Washington and the Association of Ecclesial Movements and the New Communities sponsor the Adult and Family Rally & Mass for Life on the morning of the National March for Life on Friday, **January 22**, at the Cathedral. Register to attend at www.adw.org/jan22. The Rally & Mass mark the 43rd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*. For more information, contact the Department of Life Issues at 301-853-4555 or prolife@adw.org. The 9am Rally features keynote speaker Mark Pickup. Mass begins at 10am, celebrated by Bishop Mario Dorsonville with Fr. Dan Leary as homilist. **There will be no confessions on January 22.**

The Respect Life Ministry invites all to the Rally for Life on the Mall. We will gather in the St. Anthony Chapel after the 10am Mass. Email Justin Silvers at stmatthewsrespectlife@yahoo.com if you plan to attend, or call Fr. Rafael or Norma Canedo at 202-347-3215.

Eucharistic Adoration for Life – On Friday, **January 22**, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the Cathedral main altar at **2pm** until Benediction at 5pm. All are invited to stop in to adore our Eucharistic Lord.

Monthly Rosary for Life – Join us for a rosary for life, prayed facing the Cathedral main altar, on Saturday, **January 23** at 8:30am, after the 8am Mass. For more information on Respect Life Ministry service opportunities, contact us at stmatthewsrespectlife@yahoo.com.

FAITH FORMATION

Book Club: *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* – The next two Book Club meetings will focus on Fr. James Martin's *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*. We will discuss Chapters 1 – 12 on Monday, **January 11**, and the remaining chapters, 13 – 25, on Monday, **March 14**. Meetings are held in the West Conference Room from 6:45 to 8pm. All are welcome.

Ignatian Retreat in Daily Life – The Jesuit Center for Spirituality will offer a week-long retreat in daily life based at St. Matthew's **January 24 - 30**. The retreat is designed for those who are new to praying with Scripture in an Ignatian way. Each weekday retreatants spend ½ hour of reflection with a scripture passage and a ½ hour in private meeting with a trained spiritual director who will be available at St. Matthew's between 11:30am and 1:30pm. The retreat opens with a group meeting Sunday, January 24, 3 – 5pm and closes with another on Saturday, January 30, 8:30 – 10:30am at Holy Trinity Church (3513 N St. NW). Register at www.trinity.org/spirituality or pick up a form at the Cathedral main entrance. Contact: Martina O'Shea at 202-903-2810 or moshea@trinity.org.

Adult Confirmation Preparation – Each spring during the Easter Season, St. Matthew's offers adult Confirmation preparation for active, baptized Catholics who have already received their First Eucharist. Preparation includes four Thursday evenings (April 14, 21, 28 & May 5) and one Saturday (May 7). The celebration of adult Confirmation in 2016 is at a special Mass on Pentecost Sunday, **May 15**. Registration forms are available on the parish website. Register by **April 11**.

Lenten Morning of Reflection: "A Jesuit Insight into Pope Francis' Image of Mercy" – Save the date for this morning of reflection directed by Fr. Timothy Kesicki, S.J., President of the Jesuit Conference on Saturday, 9am to Noon, on **February 13**.

For more information or to follow up on the following ongoing items, contact Theresa Prymuszewski, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, at 202-587-5139 or tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org

RCIA Call for Sponsors – We are blessed with a growing number of Inquirers who need sponsors. Would you like to explore being a sponsor?

Spiritual Direction – St. Matthew's provides and refers interested persons to qualified spiritual directors.

Sacred Scripture Course – Register by **February 1** (see the flyer).

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



Archdiocese of Washington Prayer for the Year of Mercy – Please consider praying this prayer in communion with the whole Church in the Washington Archdiocese at home, with your families and friends.

Almighty God and Father, You have created all things and know the desire of every heart. In this Year of Mercy, we reflect on your great love for us, and acknowledge our sinfulness and need for your healing mercy. Trusting that you never tire of forgiving us, we open our hearts to receive your forgiveness and love. Having encountered You, Mercy itself, and guided by the Holy Spirit, may we witness to the love we have received by sharing it with those most in need: the hungry, the homeless, the afflicted, and the oppressed. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Did You Know? – St. Matthew's Cathedral is a pilgrimage site for receiving the plenary (total) indulgence for this Holy Year of Mercy! How can one do this? Here is some guidance:

1. Enter the Cathedral by the Holy Door of Mercy – near the Baptistry.
2. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) within 20 days before or after entering the Holy Door.
3. Participate in Mass and receive Holy Eucharist within 20 days before or after entering the Holy Door.
4. Pray for the Intentions of Pope Francis (we do this at every Mass).
5. Make a Profession of Faith by praying the Apostles Creed (prayed at every Rosary) or Nicene Creed (prayed every Sunday Mass and Holy Day).
6. You can also offer this indulgence for someone who has died.

For more information please pick up the Holy Door brochure available at the Cathedral entrances.

Jubilee Year of Mercy – Resources are available at www.mercy.adw.org.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – *"Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord."* (cf. 1 Peter 2:9) is the theme for the 2016 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (**January 18-25**). These days are set aside each year so that Christians the world over may share the prayer of Jesus: "that all may be one... that the world may believe" (John 17:21).

LECTURAS DE HOY

Hoy celebramos la Fiesta del bautismo del Señor y las lecturas nos dan mucho que pensar. Este domingo, según algunos expertos, debería estar unido a la Epifanía, ya que junto con el Bautismo del Señor, se nos ofrecen diferentes manifestaciones del Jesús. En la Epifanía, Dios se manifiesta como hombre; en el Bautismo, Jesús es el "Hijo predilecto."

En la primera lectura, el profeta Isaías nos dice que Dios hace la presentación de su Siervo, su Elegido, cuya misión es establecer la justicia en las naciones y lo hará sin gritos, ni clamores, ni vociferando. Lo hará abriendo los ojos a los ciegos, dando libertad a los prisioneros y sacando a la luz a aquéllos que viven en mazmorras y en las más densas tinieblas.

El Evangelio de hoy nos viene de San Lucas. Los historiadores nos dicen que había en aquellos días una gran expectación mesiánica. La gente estaba convencida de que el Mesías iba a venir. Necesitaban esa esperanza para poder tolerar las injusticias que abundaban en aquella época en el país. Muchos llegaron a sospechar que posiblemente Juan, este predicador osado e insistente, fuera el Mesías.

Juan niega serlo y mientras bautizaba a los que a él se acercaban, llega Jesús y baja a las aguas del Jordán para recibir el bautismo y ser proclamado el predilecto, el amado, en una palabra, el Hijo de Dios padre. En ese preciso momento se oye la voz de Dios y el Espíritu santo baja del cielo y se posa sobre Jesús. Así, el Mesías da comienzo a su misión de restaurar la Alianza con Dios tantas veces incumplidas por el hombre. Cristo es el Siervo que se convierte en el instrumento del amor y el favor de Dios, el encargado de instaurar el reino de los cielos en la tierra.

"Amado Jesús, hoy quiero contemplarte porque me urge escuchar y asimilar tu mensaje. En la fiesta del tu Bautismo, Señor, quiero recordar cuando me bautizaron y hacerme un examen de conciencia para ver con los ojos del alma si mi Bautismo ha sido sólo de agua o del Espíritu Santo y fuego"

Escogida con el permiso de la Palabra Entre Nosotros. Vol 35, Numero 1; Advent 2015.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo 10	Is 42:1-4,6-7 / He 10:34-38 / <i>El Bautismo del Señor</i>
Lunes 11	Lc 3:15-16,21-22 1 Sam 1:1-8 / Mc 1:14-20
Martes 12	1 Sam 1:9-20 / Mc 1:21-28
Miércoles 13	1 Sam 3:1-10,19-20 / Mc 1:29-39 <i>San Hilario de Poitiers</i>
Jueves 14	1 Sam 4:1-11 / Mc 1:40-45
Viernes 15	1 Sam 8:4-7,10-22 / Mc 2:1-12
Sábado 16	1 Sam 9:1-4,17-19; 10:1 / Mc 2:13-17
Domingo 17	Is 62:1-5 / 1 Cor 12:4-11 / Jn 2:1-11

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

Se necesitan voluntarios para los programas de lenguaje para adultos en inglés & español

¿Cuándo? 3 de febrero a 29 de abril de 2016

(12 semanas) martes, miércoles y jueves por la tarde de 6.30 a 8.30

¿Dónde? St. Matthew's Education Center
1726 calle N, NW

No es necesario que tenga entrenamiento formal de enseñanza; ¡solo una actitud amistosa y el deseo para ayudar a nuestros estudiantes! Necesitamos voluntarios que puedan comprometerse a enseñar o ser tutor una noche a la semana. Los profesores serán asignados una clase de 2 horas cada semana con un ayudante. Les entregamos libros de texto a los estudiantes y a los maestros para que planifiquen sus lecciones. Las clases de inglés empiezan del nivel 1 al nivel 5, las clases de español son del nivel 1 al nivel 3. Se les pide a los tutores que estén disponibles para los estudiantes una noche a la semana de 6 a 6:30 de la tarde, antes que empiecen las clases. La reunión de orientación para nuestros estudiantes será el 27 de enero a las 6:30 de la tarde. Si está interesado, póngase en contacto con Dan Horning por stmattsssl@gmail.com o stmattsssl@gmail.com.

Colecta para las Misiones de la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos – En el fin de semana del **16-17 de enero**, la segunda colecta será para las Misiones de la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos. Esta combinación de colecta es para las Misiones Católicas de personas de color e indios nativos, proveyendo asistencia a importantes programas nacionales en la Iglesia. Primero, apoya misiones diocesanas en E.U. que no pueden ofrecer a su gente servicios básicos litúrgicos, pastoral, y servicios ministeriales sin ayuda de afuera. Segundo, apoya a comunidades vulnerables de personas de color e indios americanos nativos en E.U. con fondos para apoyo de parroquias y necesidades de evangelización. Por favor de generosamente si puede.

Semana de Oración por la Unidad – "Llamados a Proclamar las Grandes Maravillas del Señor" (cf. 1 Pedro 2:9) es el tema de la semana de oración por la Unidad de los Cristianos (**18-25 de enero**). Estos días se reservan cada año para que los cristianos de todo el mundo puedan compartir la oración de Jesús: "que todos sean uno... que el mundo crea" (Jn 17:21).

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

Fiesta Federal – El lunes, **18 de enero** es Martín Luther King, Jr. fiesta federal. La Catedral abrirá a las 7:30 de la mañana y cerrará a la 1 de la tarde. Se celebrarán las misas de 8 de la mañana y 12:10 del mediodía; no habrá confesiones y las oficinas de la rectoría estarán cerradas. La adoración al Santísimo que normalmente se celebra el tercer lunes del mes, se celebrará el siguiente lunes, **25 de enero**.

Concentración y Misa por la Vida – La Arquidiócesis de Washington y Asociación de los Movimientos Eclesiales y Nuevas Comunidades, patrocinará la Concentración y Misa por la Vida en la mañana de la Marcha Nacional por la Vida, el viernes, **22 de enero** aquí en la Catedral. Jóvenes y familias de la Arquidiócesis de Washington están invitados a asistir a este evento. La concentración dará inicio a las 9:00 de la mañana. Mark Pickup será el presentador. La misa empieza a las 10:00 de la mañana aquí en la Catedral y será celebrada por el Obispo Mario Dorsonville y el padre Dan Leary será el predicador. Los asistentes parten para la Marcha Nacional por la Vida a las 11:30 de la mañana. Para más información a este evento visite www.adw.org/jan22.

Únase con Nosotros para la Marcha por la Vida – El Ministerio de Respeto a la Vida los invita a nuestros feligreses y amigos a reunirse con nosotros el viernes, **22 de enero** para la Marcha por la Vida en el Mall Nacional. Nos encontraremos en la Capilla de San Antonio de la

Catedral después de la Concentración y Misa por la Vida a las 10:00 de la mañana. Por favor póngase en contacto con Justin Silvers si planea ir con nosotros al stmatthewsrespectlife@yahoo.com. También puede llamar al padre Rafael o Norma Canedo a la rectoría al 202-347-3215.

Grupo de Oración – El grupo de oración se reúne los martes a la 7:00 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Oeste. El objetivo del grupo es profundizar nuestra fe por medio de las Sagradas Escrituras. El grupo de Oración tendrá charlas programadas a través del año y 2016. El Tema es: **“La Profesión de la Fe.”** El martes 12, el padre Rafael presentará **Los Símbolos de la Fe.**

Declaración de Contribución de Fin de Año – En un esfuerzo por ir "verde", las declaraciones de contribución de fin de año estarán disponibles a petición. Si desea un resumen de contribución del año 2015, por favor llame a Gloria Harrington al 202-347-3215 x517 o envíe un correo electrónico a gharrington@stmatthewscathedral.org Gracias por su contribución.

Se les recuerda a todas las personas que deseen ofrecer misas por sus difuntos, que tienen que reservarlas por lo menos con tres meses de antelación debido a que solo tenemos una misa en español.

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You may arrange a Mass intention by speaking to our receptionist in the Rectoría. There is no fee but an offering is customary. Intentions are reserved in advance so particular dates may be unavailable.

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISAS January 10 – 17

Sunday, January 10

5:30pm Vigil (January 9 Vigil) –
Antonios Kouzoukas
7am – All Parishioners
8:30am – Detta Shanakan
10am – James Baumbach
11:30am – Soderberg Family (living)
1pm – Elizabeth Encinas
5:30pm – Fred Dalton Thompson

Monday, January 11

7am – Jeffrey Michael Scisciloo
8am – Special Intention JA & V (living)
12:10pm – Felicísima Villacorte
5:30pm – Irene Flores Yap

Tuesday, January 12

7am – Alvarado Urribarri
8am – Ethel Aspey
12:10pm – Margaret Gruber
5:30pm – Jean Alexander (living)

Wednesday, January 13

7am – Msgr. Cartwright
8am – Donald Moen (living)
12:10pm – Catherine Jane Templeton
5:30pm – Teresita Vigaud Rodriguez

Thursday, January 14

7am – Thansgiving
8am – Flor Urribarri
12:10pm – Maximo Roque, Sr.
5:30pm – Mr. Willie Conway

Friday, January 15

7am – Bill Van Domelen
8am – George Bork
12:10pm – Thanksgiving
5:30pm – Joseph Crowley

Saturday, January 16

8am – Andres B. Agcaoili (living)
12:10pm – Ronald Steffensen
5:30pm – Janet Alvarado

Sunday, January 17

7am – Sylvia Gross
8:30am – All Parishioners
10am – Patricia Valley
11:30am – Howard Coble
1pm – Julio Luna
5:30pm – Alfred Barese

Holy Year of Mercy



By now you have seen the specially decorated door at the Cathedral main entrance denoting it as the Holy Door. It has special significance for the period between December 8, 2015 and November 20, 2016, the period designated by Pope Francis as the Year of Mercy.

So what is the significance of this period designated as an “Extraordinary” Holy Year for the benefit of the community? If you have not yet or don’t have the opportunity to “google” the Internet for some basic information on the subject, this brief synopsis will give you a basic understanding.

Actually, this is not something created by Pope Francis, but has its origins in scripture, specifically in Hebrew Scripture or Old Testament. In Chapter 25 of Leviticus, one reads of the Lord’s command that every seventh year, the people of Israel should

neither sow nor prune their fields and vineyard, trusting that the Lord would feed the people. It emanates from the Hebrew practice that the seventh day was a day of rest.

Thus, this “seventh year” also became known as the Sabbath year. Leviticus also notes that after every seven Sabbath years, the Hebrew people were to celebrate a “jubilee” year. It was during this special year that people were to forgive debts and free those who were slaves. It was a time to bring justice and peace to the community, to be truly a year of grace.

Jesus himself also invoked this “jubilee” language to announce his own ministry, portraying his ministry as good news – a proclamation undertaking an effort to restore peace, wholeness and justice to the community of God’s people.

The Church has followed this practice of celebrating special jubilee years. The last jubilee or holy year celebrated by the Church was in 2000. As this year does not fall in the usual 50 year time-frame, Pope Francis has designated it as an “extraordinary” holy year.

Given the turmoil confronting today’s world, Pope Francis has seen the importance of devoting a special year to calling upon the Lord to show us his mercy and peace. He is calling upon the faithful to open doors that lead to liberation and peace – not only for each of us, but also to our co-workers, friends and neighbors across the world. It is truly a time of grace.

One of the ways to fulfill this appeal for mercy is to recall the traditional approaches outlined by the Church as acts of mercy, twofold in nature: spiritual and corporal. These are not the only ways to be merciful, but they are a pointer to what can be done to be merciful. These are the **corporal** works: feed the hungry, quench the thirsty, clothe the naked, house the homeless, visit the sick, aid the

persecuted, and bury the dead; and the **spiritual** works: instruct the uninformed, counsel the doubtful; help the misdirected; bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses; comfort the afflicted; and pray for the living and the dead.

That said; what is the significance of the “holy door?” Yes, it does symbolize for the passerby something special. But, it also is for our own particular benefit as the faithful in Christ, for our own mercy. Passing through the door and fulfilling other specific acts enable us to obtain God’s mercy for ourselves as well.

But, this year something different has been done that is a significant change from past jubilee years. Historically, the Holy Door has been limited to St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican which meant that the faithful had to travel to Rome to gain the individual spiritual benefits offered during the Holy Year. This year, typical of Pope Francis, he has expanded the availability of the spiritual benefits by calling upon all dioceses throughout the world to designate a holy door at the local cathedral. Hence the special door here at St. Matthew’s.

By entering through this designated door and receiving the sacrament of reconciliation and Eucharist within a particular time period, the faithful will receive a special plenary (full) indulgence (remission) of sin.

So, during this special year devoted to mercy, we as committed followers of Christ should be especially attentive to our own spiritual needs, but also of others who need mercy: the homeless, the hungry, the children forced to be soldiers, those forced into prostitution or slave labor, migrants, refugees and so many others in need of special help, in need of the mercy we as followers of Christ can provide.

Pope Francis has demonstrated time and time again for us how mercy can be given to those who live in the desperate shadows of God’s creation. In this year of mercy, let us renew our commitment of what it is to be a Christian community, deepening our ties to those who need our help, both known and unknown.

Deacon Bartholomew J. Merella

c/f: Marc Tumeisnki; America Magazine, December 7, 2015



Faith Foundations—Sacred Scripture

“The study of the sacred Scriptures must be a door opened to every believer. It is essential that the revealed word radically enrich our catechesis and all our efforts to pass on the faith.”

Pope Francis (Evangelii Gaudium)

We are all called to evangelize and to do so enthusiastically, let us be enriched by scripture!

St. Matthew's Cathedral

1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Thursdays

7:00pm – 9:00pm

February 11, 18, 25; March 3, 10 & 17

Instructor: Theresa Prymuszewski

To register: Theresa Prymuszewski

at 202-587-5139 Due: 2/1/2016

tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org



General Cost: \$29.00 (\$20 for catechists)

For more information please visit:

www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com/adw

BLACK AND CATHOLIC: FAITH-FILLED CITIZENS

In honor of Black History Month, please join us for this exploration of the spirituality and social action of Black Catholics and Catholic Social Teaching.

WHEN:

Tuesday, February 16 from 7:00 – 8:30pm

WHERE:

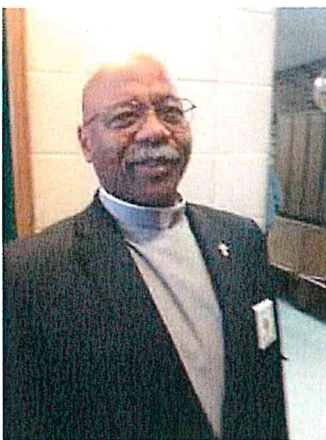
St. Matthew's Cathedral
North Conference Room
1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
www.stmatthewscathedral.org

*Two blocks north of the Farragut North Metro station,
four blocks north of the Farragut West Metro station.*



PRESENTED BY:

Deacon Al Douglas Turner, MTS



Deacon Al Turner is the former director of the Office of Black Catholics. He was ordained a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Washington in 2000 and is currently assigned to St. Joseph Catholic Church in Largo, MD. He received a Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction from the Washington Theological Union in 2006, and earned a Master of Theological Studies from that same institution in 2007.

Deacon Turner was appointed to the Maryland Catholic Conference Respect Life Committee by Donald Cardinal Wuerl. He volunteered at the Northwest Center from 1999 to 2002 and was a member of its Board of Directors from 2002 until 2011. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Loyola Retreat House from 2003 to 2011 and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Mother Lange Guild.

Sponsored by the Cathedral's Faith Formation Committee. All are invited to this event, free of charge.

For more information, please contact Theresa Prymuszewski, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation at tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org or at 202-587-5139.

Año Santo de la Misericordia



Para esta fecha ya habrán visto la puerta especialmente decorada en la entrada de la catedral, como símbolo de la Puerta Santa. Tiene un significado especial por el periodo entre diciembre 8, 2015 a noviembre 20, 2016, periodo designado por el Papa Francisco como el Año de la Misericordia.

Por lo tanto, ¿Cuál es el significado de este periodo designado como un Año Santo “Extraordinario” para beneficio de la comunidad? Si no han tenido la oportunidad de ir a “google” o el internet para encontrar una información básica en el sujeto, esta breve síntesis le dará a conocer lo más básico.

Realmente, esto no es algo creado por el Papa Francisco; tiene sus orígenes en las escrituras, específicamente en las Escrituras de los Hebreos o en el Antiguo Testamento. En el capítulo 25 de Levíticos, uno lee en los mandamientos de Dios que cada siete años, la gente de Israel no debería sembrar o podar sus campos y viñedos, confiando que el Señor alimentaría a su gente. Emanaba de la práctica del libro de Hebreos que el séptimo día era un día de descanso.

Por tanto, este “séptimo día llegó a ser observado como el sábado judío. En Levíticos se nota que después de cada siete años del sábado judío, los hebreos celebraban el año “jubilar”. Fue que durante este año especial que la gente debía perdonar deudas y libertar a aquellos que fuesen esclavos. Fue un tiempo de llevar justicia y paz a la comunidad, para que fuese un año de verdadera gracia.

Jesús invocó esta lengua de “jubileo” para anunciar su ministerio, retratando su ministerio como buena noticia – una proclamación garantizando un esfuerzo para restaurar paz, integridad y justicia a la comunidad de Dios.

La Iglesia ha seguido la práctica de celebrar estos años de jubileo especial. El último jubileo o año santo celebrado por la Iglesia fue en el año 2000. Aunque este año no cae en los 50 años, el Papa Francisco lo ha designado como un año “extraordinario”.

Dada la confusión que afronta el mundo de hoy, el Papa Francisco ha visto la importancia de dedicar un año especial a llamar a Dios que nos muestre su misericordia y paz. Él está llamando a los fieles a que abran las puertas que guíen a la liberación y paz – no solamente por nosotros, sino también a nuestros compañeros de trabajo, amigos y vecinos a través del mundo. Verdaderamente es un tiempo de gracia.

Una de las formas de cumplir esta petición de misericordia es recordar los acercamientos tradicionales que la Iglesia ha designado como actos de misericordia, doble en naturaleza: espiritual y corporal. Estas no son las únicas formas de ser misericordioso, pero son los puntos en los cuales podemos ser misericordiosos. Estos son los trabajos **corporales**: alimentar al hambriento, refrescar al sediento, dar ropa al necesitado, casa a los sin hogar, visitar a los enfermos, ayudar al perseguido, y enterrar a los difuntos; y los trabajos **espirituales**: instruir al ignorante, aconsejar al dudoso, ayudar al mal informado; soportar con paciencia, perdonar las ofensas; consolar al afligido; y rezar por los vivos y difuntos.

Dicho esto; ¿Cuál es la significancia de la “puerta santa”? Si, simboliza para el que pasa por la calle algo especial. Pero, es también para nuestro particular beneficio como fieles en Cristo, para nuestra propia misericordia. Pasando a través de la puerta y satisfaciendo otros actos específicos que nos permite obtener la misericordia de Cristo para nosotros también.

Pero, este año se ha hecho un cambio que es diferente de otros jubileos en el pasado. Históricamente, la Puerta Santa fue limitada a la Basílica de San Pedro en el Vaticano lo cual hizo que los fieles tuviesen que viajar a Roma para ganar las indulgencias y beneficios espirituales ofrecidos durante el Año Santo. Este año, típico del Papa Francisco, él expandió la disponibilidad de los beneficios a todas las diócesis del mundo a designar una puerta santa en la catedral local.

Entrando a través de esa puerta designada y recibiendo los sacramentos de confesión y eucaristía en un tiempo en particular, los fieles recibirán una indulgencia plenaria (completa) por los pecados.

Por lo tanto, en este año especial dedicado a la misericordia, nos comprometemos como seguidores de Cristo a estar especialmente atentos a nuestras necesidades espirituales, pero también a las necesidades de otros: personas sin hogar, el hambriento, jóvenes forzados a ser soldados, aquellos que son forzados a la prostitución o trabajo de esclavos, inmigrantes, refugiados y otros muchos más en necesidad especial, en necesidad de la misericordia que nosotros, seguidores de Cristo podemos proveer.

El Papa Francisco ha demostrado tiempo y tiempo de nuevo que la misericordia puede darse a aquellos que viven en las sombras de la desesperación. En este año de la misericordia, renovemos nuestro compromiso de lo que significa ser una comunidad de cristianos, profundizando nuestros lazos con aquellos que necesitan nuestra ayuda, conocidas o desconocidas.

Diácono Bartholomew J. Merella

c/f Marc Tumeisnki; America Magazine, 7 de diciembre de 2015