

TODAY'S READINGS

PARISH CALENDAR

January 24 – 31

Today is holy to your Lord your God. (Nehemiah 8:9)
In today's first reading, the Israelites were reaffirming their covenant with the Lord as they listened to Ezra the priest reading and interpreting the Scriptures. Having had their city overrun, having been sent into exile, and now having returned as a ragtag group to try to rebuild their lives, the people had endured one humiliating event after the other. But now, they saw a light at the end of the tunnel. They were beginning to come together again.

Ezra gave the people three short messages. First, he told them, "Today is holy to your Lord." Then, he urged them to celebrate their deliverance with "rich foods" and "drink." Then, he told them, "Rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength!" (Nehemiah 8:9-10).

This reading also describes the people's response. They gathered for the entire morning, from daybreak until midday, to pray. And their prayer was one of full involvement: They listened "attentively." They stood up, raised their hands, bowed down in worship, and cried out, "Amen, amen" (Nehemiah 8:3, 6).

Now, let's shift our minds to today. Each Sunday, we come to Mass to celebrate what God has done for us. As the day of the resurrection, every Sunday is holy. Like the Israelites, we celebrate our deliverance from death. And like them, we look forward to our final homecoming—heaven. We have much to celebrate!

So let's be sure to come to Mass today ready to express our gratitude for Jesus' cross and to rejoice in our freedom.

But there is more. If you come with a listening heart, the word of God will come to life for you. Jesus' sacramental presence will fill your heart with his love and his grace to live a holy life. If you come with the right disposition, as the Israelites did, God will surely fill you up!

"Thank you, Jesus, for your deliverance! Lord, I believe in you and celebrate your love today."

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

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 24	Neh 8:2-6,8-10 / 1 Cor 12:12-30 / Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21
Monday 25	Acts 22:3-16 / Mk 16:15-18
<i>The Conversion of St. Paul</i>	
Tuesday 26	2 Tm 1:1-8 / Mk 3:31-35
<i>St. Timothy and St. Titus</i>	
Wednesday 27	2 Sm 7:4-17 / Mk 4:1-20
<i>St. Angela Merici</i>	
Thursday 28	2 Sm 7:18-19,24-29 / Mk 4:21-25
<i>St. Thomas Aquinas</i>	
Friday 29	2 Sm 11:1-10,13-17 / Mk 4:26-34
Saturday 30	2 Sm 12:1-7,10-17 / Mk 4:35-41
Sunday 31	Jer 1:4-5,17-19 / 1 Cor 12:31—13:13 / Lk 4:21-30

Sunday 24—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.
RCIA dismissal is held at the 5:30pm Mass.

Monday 25—A **Eucharistic Holy Hour** is held in the Cathedral from 6 to 7pm, with Confessions in English and Spanish.
The Social Justice & Community Services Committee meets at 6:45pm in the East Conference Room.
Wine and Wisdom meets at 7pm in the North Conference Room.

Tuesday 26—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 27—ESL & SSL Volunteer orientation is held at 6:30pm at St. Matthew's Education Center.
RCIA meets at 7pm in the North Conference Room (newcomers welcome!).

Thursday 28—The pre-registration for ESL & SSL students is held from 6 to 8pm at St. Matthew's Education Center.
The Knights of Columbus meet at 7:30pm in the West Conference Room.

Sunday 31—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.
RCIA dismissal is held at the 5:30pm Mass.

NEWS AND NOTES

Thank you! - Children's Hospital Blood Drive – The Social Justice and Community Service Committee thank all who participated in the blood drive held at our parish on January 10. The drive was the inspiration of Fr. Hurley and the parents of an infant whom he baptized and who died after a valiant and heroic effort by the staff of our own Children's Hospital. Nearly 80 children benefitted from the blood collected at our parish.

Bring Your Old Palms – Please bring your old palms to the Sacristy and give them to the Sacristan. They will be used to prepare ashes for Ash Wednesday. If the Sacristan is unavailable or the Sacristy is closed, please place the palms in the basket outside the Sacristy door.

Communal Anointing of the Sick – The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be administered during a special bilingual Mass celebrated at 12:10pm on Saturday, **February 13**. Details and an explanation of the sacrament will be included in the next two weekends' bulletins (January 30-31 and February 6-7). During this Holy Year of Mercy, parish participation in this sacrament of healing is particularly encouraged. Not only those to receive the sacrament, but ALL parishioners are invited and encouraged to come and participate in this special Mass and Sacrament as a way of being involved in a work of mercy during this Holy Year.

Catholic Business Network Breakfast – Join the Catholic Business Network of Washington D.C. for a networking breakfast in the Great Hall of the Rectory on Thursday, **January 28** from 8 to 9:30am. The guest speaker will be James C. Dinegar, President and CEO of the Greater Washington Board of Trade. For more information or to register, visit www.cbndc.org or contact Justin Silvers at 202-957-5188 or jsilvers@cbndc.org.

Mardis Gras Pancake Party – The Cathedra 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.

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@stmattthewscathedral.org.

WELCOME!

Visitors to the Cathedral, we want you to know how welcome you are—whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or from another parish here in the Archdiocese or across the river. Thank you for praying with us. Thank you also for your generosity, which helps us to celebrate our liturgies in a fitting and beautiful way, and to offer a wide range of services to needy people in the Washington, DC area. Enjoy your visit!

CARDINAL'S APPEAL

SEEK
FIRST
THE
KINGDOM
OF
GOD
Matthew 6:33

A Time for Reflection – This week, you are asked to review the Cardinal's Appeal brochure and the tabloid in this bulletin. The theme of the campaign is: “Seek first the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 6:33)

The Cardinal's Appeal campaign is much different than a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift, payable over ten months.

A significant gift to the Cardinal's Appeal will touch the lives of many others in a very positive way. As you review the work enabled by your contribution, please reflect on God's gifts to you. He has given you all that you have. Your gifts to our parish, to the archdiocese and to the work of the Church throughout the world should be given in gratitude for the continuing gifts that God gives you.

Sometimes it is difficult to envision how one pledge can help an organization the size of our archdiocese, how it can make a real difference. But each pledge does make a difference because all parishes participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services.

Our combined gifts not only signify our gratitude to God, they glorify Him by enabling the work of our archdiocese and give Him thanks for all He has given us.

If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back or bring it to Mass next weekend. For those who did not receive it or have not yet responded, we will conduct our in-pew pledge process at all Masses next weekend and the following weekend.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.

FAITH FORMATION

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**.



Bible Study on Letter to the Romans – Explore St. Paul's Letter to the Romans during this Year of Mercy. Fr. Jack Hurley will lead this study on the following Saturdays from 10:30 to 11:45am: (topics as indicated): February 20 (Introduction); February 27 (Justification by Faith); March 5 (God's Love); March 12 (New Life in the Spirit); March 19 (Israel in God's Plan). Class will meet in the East Conference Room, except on February 27 when the location will be the North Conference Room.

Sacred Page - Read, Reflect, Pray – Our Cathedral Seminarians will lead this weekly study of Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday, beginning on Wednesday, **February 3** from 7 to 8pm in the West Conference Room.

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

Light the City at St. Matthew's Cathedral – Join us on Saturday, **March 5** for this Archdiocese of Washington-sponsored event. Following a prayer service, teams of volunteers will head out to the streets and invite passers-by into the Cathedral to light a candle and pray. Arrive by 7pm for volunteer training, followed by street evangelization and prayer from 8 to 11pm.

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.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Archdiocese of Washington Prayer for the Year of Mercy –

Please consider praying this prayer in communion with the whole Church of Washington 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, see the Holy Door brochure available at Cathedral entrances.

Housing Those in Need – Friendship Place and Catholic Charities are committed to ending homelessness in DC by creating housing for individuals. They are looking for landlords and property owners who are willing to rent rooms or apartments to their participants. If you can help, please call Sal Corbin of the Home Now program at Friendship Place at 202-997-1666.

LECTURAS DE HOY

En la segunda lectura de hoy, San Pablo les recuerda a los cristianos de Corinto que todos ellos han sido bautizados en “un mismo Espíritu”, el cual los constituye en el Cuerpo de Cristo, cuyos miembros son distintos, pero complementarios. Por el contrario, si los miembros se independizan, causarían estragos en el cuerpo, que entonces carecería de manos, pies u oídos, tal vez le faltaría una pierna o estaría tuerto.

El apóstol les pide a los corintios de entonces y nos pide también a los hispanos, los anglosajones, los caribeños, los afroamericanos, los nativos y los asiáticos de hoy que practiquemos la solidaridad. Si hay alguien que llora, que sepamos solidarizar con él o ella; si alguien ha recibido honores, sepamos alegrarnos todos de su triunfo sin envidias y con mucho amor. Entonces, ¿qué estamos haciendo tú y yo para vivir nuestra fe con espíritu comunitario? ¿Cómo estamos practicando nuestra fe en la familia, la comunidad o el lugar de trabajo?

En la sinagoga, Jesús lee un pasaje del profeta Isaías y se lo aplica a sí mismo, anunciando de esa forma una magnífica noticia, especialmente para los pobres, los cautivos, los ciegos, los oprimidos. El Espíritu del Señor, que está sobre Jesús, es el origen de la Buena Nueva.

Y es buena noticia para nosotros porque el mismo Espíritu Santo puede venir a hacer su morada en nuestro corazón y purificar nuestros razonamientos y motivaciones, de modo que nuestra conducta se ajuste al proceder de Cristo en cualquier circunstancia.

Qué buena noticia sería poder proclamar que hemos dejado de lado las oscuras páginas de una cultura de la muerte y estamos viviendo la vida a plenitud, en una sociedad que defiende la vida en todos sus aspectos y promueve los medios para acabar con el aborto, la corrupción y la pobreza.

“Padre celestial, concédenos la gracia de buscar la unidad tendiendo la mano al necesitado de cualquier raza o religión y demostrarle amor y compasión, para que todos seamos uno y el mundo crea que tú enviaste a Jesús, nuestro Señor y Salvador.”

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LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo 24	Ne 8:2-6,8-10 / 1 Cor 12:12-30 / Lc 1:1-4; 4:14-21
Lunes 25	He 22:3-16- / Mc 16:15-18
<i>La Conversión del apóstol San Pablo</i>	
Martes 26	2 Tm 1:1-8 / Mc 3:31-35
<i>San Timoteo y San Tito</i>	
Miércoles 27	2 Sam 7:4-17 / Mc 4:1-20
<i>Santa Ángela de Mércil</i>	
Jueves 28	2 Sam 7:18-19,24-29 / Mc 4:21-25
<i>Santo Tomás de Aquino</i>	
Viernes 29	2 Sam 11:1-10,13-17 / Mc 4:26-34
Sábado 30	2 Sam 12:1-7,10-17 / Mc 4:35-41
Domingo 31	Je 1:4-5,17-19 / 1 Cor 12:31—13:13 / Lc 4:21-30

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

¡Gracias! - Donaciones de sangre para el Hospital de Niños “Children’s Hospital” – El Comité de Justicia Social y Servicio Comunitario quieren agradecer a todos los que participaron en la donación de sangre que se llevó a cabo el 10 de enero. Este evento fue inspirado por el padre Hurley y los papás de un bebé a quien él bautizó y que trágicamente falleció a pesar del esfuerzo valiente y heroico del personal del Hospital de Niños. Muchas gracias a todos los que participaron y donaron sangre para ayudará a salvar vidas. Alrededor de 80 niños se beneficiaron de la sangre que fue donada en nuestra parroquia.

Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento – Les invitamos el lunes **25 de enero** a que se unan en adoración al Santísimo, de 6 a 7 de la tarde, habrá confesiones en inglés y español durante la hora.

Traigan sus Ramos – Por favor traigan sus ramos del previo Domingo de Ramos a la Sacristía y entréguenlos al sacristán. Los ramos serán usados para preparar las cenizas para el Miércoles de Ceniza. Si el sacristán no está o si la Sacristía está cerrada, los ramos se pueden dejar en la canasta que está colocada afuera de la Sacristía en la Capilla Matrimonial.

Unción de los Enfermos – El Sacramento de la Unción de los Enfermos se administrará en una misa especial bilingüe en la Catedral el **13 de febrero** a las 12:10 del mediodía. Una explicación del Sacramento y detalles importantes se incluirán en los boletines de los fines de semana de enero 30 y 31; 6 y 7 de febrero. Durante este Año de Jubileo de la Misericordia, se anima la participación de la parroquia en este sacramento de sanación. No solo aquellos que quieren recibir este sacramento pero TODOS los feligreses están invitados y se les pide que vengan y participen en esta misa especial y sacramento como una manera de participar en obras de misericordia durante este Año Santo.

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

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. El Tema es: **“La Profesión de la Fe.”** La próxima charla: Creo en Dios, será este martes **26 de enero** y Mirta Hunter será la invitada especial.

La Petición del Cardenal 2016 - Un tiempo para Reflexión –

Esta semana se les pide revisar el folleto de la Campaña del Cardenal y el periódico pequeño, que recibirán en el boletín de hoy. El tema de la campaña es: "Busquen Primero el Reino de Dios" (Mateo 6, 33). La Campaña del Cardenal es muy distinta a una colecta especial de una vez. En esta campaña, ustedes pueden hacer una donación pagadera a lo largo de diez meses.

Una donación importante para la Campaña del Cardenal tocará la vida de muchos de un modo muy positivo. Mientras revisan las obras que fueron posible gracias a su contribución, por favor, reflexionen sobre los dones que Dios les concedió. Él les ha dado todo lo que tienen. Las donaciones a nuestra parroquia, a la arquidiócesis y a las obras de la Iglesia en todo el mundo deben ser una muestra de gratitud por los continuos dones que Dios nos concede.

Algunas veces es difícil imaginar cómo puede ayudar un compromiso de donación a una organización del tamaño de la arquidiócesis, cómo puede hacer una gran diferencia. Sin embargo, cada donación hace realmente una diferencia porque todas las parroquias participan en la campaña y las donaciones de muchos hacen posible que nuestra arquidiócesis pueda brindar los ministerios y servicios que se necesitan.

Nuestras donaciones, todas ellas combinadas, no solo significan gratitud hacia Dios; también lo glorifican, posibilitando la obra de nuestra arquidiócesis, y le muestran nuestro agradecimiento por todo lo que Él nos ha concedido. Quienes hayan recibido un formulario de donación por correo este mes, sírvanse completarlo y devolverlo por correo o llevarlo a misa el próximo fin de semana.

Para quienes no recibieron ningún correo o, en caso de haberlo recibido, y no tuvieron tiempo de responder, pondremos en marcha nuestro proceso de llamado a donación desde el púlpito en todas las misas el próximo fin de semana y el que le sigue.

Gracias por considerar con devoción este pedido y por su generosa respuesta.

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@tmatthewscathedral.org. Gracias por su contribución.

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISAS

January 24 – 31

Sunday, January 24

5:30pm Vigil (January 23) –

Rudolph A. Fournier, Sr.

7am – All Parishioners

8:30am – Edward Lee Hasselman

10am – Liliana Ramirez (living)

11:30am – George Schmitt

1pm – Janet Torres

5:30pm – Rev. John Schlege, SJ

Monday, January 25

7am – Thanksgiving

8am – Special Intention JA & V (living)

12:10pm – Robert Miller

5:30pm – Ruth McHugh

Tuesday, January 26

7am – Mary Parson

8am – Mary Patricia Pazdur

12:10pm – Antonio Vitug

5:30pm – Family of Goitum (living)

Wednesday, January 27

7am – Mary Rose D'Shaughnessy

8am – Melva Malka

12:10pm – Maria Teresa Moreno

5:30pm – William Busch

Thursday, January 28

7am – Rev. Gerry Stockhausen

8am – Scamus Donnelan

12:10pm – Andrea Lay

5:30pm – Silvia Gross

Friday, January 29

7am – Marinete Passos de Araujo
(living)

8am – Blanca Leonor Romero

12:10pm – Patricius Agus Wiranto

5:30pm – Alice Tumulty

Saturday, January 30

8am – Msgr. John Kuhn

12:10pm – Gregorio Coello

5:30pm – All Parishioners

Sunday, January 31

7am – Detta Shanahan

8:30am – Jim Anthony

10am – Rev. Jerome M. Hall, SJ

11:30am – Norma Jean Veras

1pm – Liliana Ramirez (living)

5:30pm – Nerissa Johnson

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