

TODAY'S READINGS

Your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)
Have you heard the saying, "History is his story"? Well, that's exactly what salvation history is: the epic story encompassing all of God's dealings with humanity. Every year, the Church proclaims anew several key chapters of this sweeping story. For instance, you can imagine Advent as the story leading up to the birth of Jesus. And Lent follows him on his journey to the cross.

Today, we begin another chapter: the season of Easter. Yesterday Jesus lay entombed in death—but now no more. He is risen, and a new story is about to unfold!

Great stories have compelling characters, and today's readings are no different. Ask the Spirit to breathe life into them. Plunge into the first reading, and listen as Peter gives witness to the resurrection. In the second reading, picture Jesus as Paul described him to the Colossians—sitting beside his Father in heaven's court. Then immerse yourself in the Gospel. Race alongside Peter and John to Jesus' tomb, and catch your breath as you lean on the stone that has been rolled away.

The marvelous thing about this chapter is that it's still being written—and you are a key character in it! Jesus is risen, and the Spirit has been poured out. And so the story continues to advance through you.

Isn't Jesus wonderful? Not only did he forgive all of your sins and save you from death, but he is also inviting you to be a part of history, the greatest story ever told. He is placing you on the cutting edge of salvation history and asking you to write another page in this glorious chapter. Let's all take up this invitation. Let's commit ourselves to Jesus. Let's welcome him in so that our lives can become a moving story of his love and his grace. Happy Easter!

"Thank you, Jesus, for making me a part of your story! Lord, may the good news of your salvation ring forth today from your whole Church!"

Taken from *The Word Among Us*, February 2016, Vol. 35, Number 3: Used with permission.



PARISH CALENDAR

March 27 – April 3

Sunday 27—Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of the Lord

The regular Sunday schedule of Masses is observed, and the Rectory is closed.

Donald Cardinal Wuerl celebrates the 10am Mass in English.

Monday 28—The Rectory offices are closed.

The Cathedral opens at 7:30am and closes at 1pm. Masses are celebrated at 8am and 12:10pm. There are no confessions.

Tuesday 29—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 30—RCIA meets at 7pm in the North Conference Room.

Sacred Page, Sunday Scripture Reflections meets at 7pm in the West Conference Room.

Thursday 31—A screening of the film "Monseñor: The Last Journey of Oscar Romero" is held in the East Conference Room at 6:45pm.

Friday 1—First Friday Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held after the 12:10pm Mass till 5pm.

Saturday 2—First Saturday Devotions are held after the 12:10pm Mass, followed by Hospitality in the West Conference Room.

Sunday 3—Sunday of Divine Mercy

A second collection for Cathedral maintenance is taken at all Masses.

Hospitality is held after the 8:30, 10 and 11:30am, and the 1 and 5:30pm Masses in the North Conference Room.

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

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

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration following the 1pm Mass, and the **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** is prayed in English and Spanish at 3pm.

The Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University will host a public Dialogue on *Faith, Francis, and the 2016 Campaign* on Wednesday, **March 30** at 7pm in the ICC Building at Georgetown University. Contact: cathsocialthought@georgetown.edu.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 27 Act 10:34,37-43 / Col 3:1-4 / Jn 20:1-9

Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of the Lord

Monday 28 Acts 2:14,22-33 / Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday 29 Acts 2:36-41 / Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday 30 Acts 3:1-10 / Lk 24:13-35

Thursday 31 Acts 3:11-26 / Lk 24:35-48

Friday 1 Acts 4:1-12 / Jn 21:1-14

Saturday 2 Acts 4:13-21 / Mk 16:9-15

Sunday 3 Acts 5:12-16 / Rv 1:9-11, 12-13, 17-19 / Jn 20:19-31

Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday



Christ is risen! Alleluia!
He is truly risen! Alleluia!
Wishing you a joyful Easter! Rejoice!



The Easter Sacraments – This Easter we welcome the following into our Catholic Faith: Shanel Geeta Balloo, Ian Chung, Heather Do, Luna Hernandez, Richard Kraemer, Alexander Poonai, and Adam Solomon **were baptized, confirmed and received their First Eucharist**; Norma Douglas, John Bockelman, Lyndsey Fifield, Thomas Ingram, Robert Newton, Mihoko Owada, Richard Roddy, Marjorie Romeyn-Sanabria, Amanda Sweeney, and Mark Turco **were received into full communion with the Catholic Church**; and the following Catholic Candidates: Elise Attridge, Laurent Boulch, Lauren Petruzzi, and Timothy Staudenmier **completed their Sacraments of Initiation** during the Easter Vigil this weekend.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



Easter – Celebrate the amazing mercy of God: that he sent his Son to become man, to die for us, and conquering death to rise again. He did all this to save us from our human brokenness and bring us to Eternal Life with him. Not because we deserve it, but because he created us and loves us. In the words of Scripture recited during the

Easter Vigil, “I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities... I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you... you shall be my people, and I will be your God.” (Ezekiel 36:25-28) *Share in the celebration of mercy at mercy.adw.org.*

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 will be at a special Mass on Pentecost Sunday, **May 15**. Registration forms are available on the parish website. Register by **April 11**.

Children’s Faith Formation – Children’s Faith Formation classes will not meet on Easter Sunday, **March 27**. Classes will resume on Sunday, **April 3**.

Spiritual Direction – St. Matthew’s provides and refers interested persons to qualified spiritual directors. Contact Theresa Prymuszewski, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, at 202-587-5139 or tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org.

NEWS AND NOTES

Holiday Schedule – On Easter Monday, **March 28** the Rectory offices will be closed. The Cathedral will open at 7:30am and close at 1pm. Masses will be celebrated at 8am and 12:10pm, and there will be no Confessions.

First Friday and First Saturday – All are welcome – First Friday Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on **April 1** following the 12:10pm Mass until 5pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, to the left of the sanctuary. On Saturday, **April 2**, First Saturday Devotions will be held after the 12:10pm Mass, followed by Hospitality in the West Conference Room.

7am Weekday Mass Cancellation – The 7am Mass is cancelled from Monday, **April 4** through Friday, **April 8** due to the vacations of two of our rectory priests and the unavailability of several regular extern priests. We regret any inconvenience. The 7am weekday Mass will resume on Monday, **April 11**.

Hospitality Sunday – Hospitality receptions will be held next Sunday, **April 3**. This is a great opportunity to expand your connection to your parish. Join us after the 8:30, 10, 11:30am or 1pm Masses in the North Conference Room! To volunteer, please email us at StMattsHospitality@gmail.com.



Tour Guides Needed – The Cathedral’s status as a pilgrimage site during this Year of Mercy is attracting many visitors seeking guided tours. Our tour guide corps needs reinforcements! To inquire about training as a Cathedral Tour Guide, please contact Gloria Harrington at gharrington@stmatthewscathedral.org or Dan Evans at devans@stmatthewscathedral.org.

MARRIAGE

Marriage at the Cathedral – Couples who are interested in celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage at the Cathedral are encouraged to visit the parish website to review our guidelines for weddings. The next step is to call the Rectory at 202-347-3215 and ask for the priest of your choice or the priest on duty, who can speak to you about marriage preparation and the possibility of scheduling your wedding at the Cathedral. Couples are expected to contact us **at least nine (9) months in advance** of the date on which they hope to celebrate their wedding.

Blessing of Engaged Couples – On Sunday, **April 24**, couples who are to be married at the Cathedral or are receiving marriage preparation at St. Matthew's are invited to receive a blessing at the 11:30am Mass. To participate, email reply@stmatthewscathedral.org.

Annual Jubilarian Mass – This year's Jubilarian Celebration of marriage honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years will be held Sunday, **June 19** at 2pm at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Cardinal Wuerl will preside at the Mass. Call 202-587-5143 by **April 1** to register from St. Matthew's.

BAPTISM

Parents who wish to have their child baptized at the Cathedral should contact the Baptismal Coordinator at 202-347-3215 x555 or baptism@stmatthewscathedral.org. Parents are encouraged to contact us **at least six (6) months in advance** of a desired baptismal date, and may ask for the priest of their choice to perform the Baptism. Early contact allows parents to be scheduled for the necessary sacramental formation session and godparents to obtain letters from their pastor.

If you are a registered parishioner at St. Matthew's and need a letter of good standing in order to be a godparent for a baptism to be celebrated at another parish, please call the Cathedral rectory at 202-347-3215 to ask about obtaining a letter.

YOUNG ADULTS

C†YA at Catholic Charities Youth Transitional Program – **Saturday, April 2 – 10am to 12:30pm** – **801 East Men's Shelter** (2700 MLK Blvd. SE / Anacostia) The [Catholic Charities Youth Transitional](#)

Program is a residential rehab program for young men ages 18-24. Join us for a rewarding morning of fun activities and facilitated interaction designed to help the guys develop valuable social and professional skills. We will do our best to coordinate carpools [using this form](#). Contact [Carolyn](#) at cwait.10@gmail.com with questions, and register [here](#) with Catholic Charities.

C†YA for Hospitality – **Sunday, April 3 after 5:30pm Mass - North Conference Room** – Are you interested in learning more about events and opportunities offered by the Young Adults? Would you like to get more involved in our ministry? Stop by and see us after Mass next Sunday as we host hospitality. Find out about upcoming events and how to get involved in the parish. Questions? Email stmattsyam@gmail.com.

C†YA on Retreat – **Saturday, April 16 - Sunday April 17 - Bellarmine Retreat Center, Waynesboro PA** – Mark your calendars for a Spring retreat with the Cathedral Young Adults in the peaceful Blue Ridge Mountains. To get involved, email Hannah at hannahrdell@gmail.com.

Catholic Business Network – Join the Catholic Business Network of Washington D.C. (CBN-D.C.) for an evening networking reception, Thursday, **March 31**, 5:30 – 7:30pm at I Ricchi. All funds raised from CBN-D.C. events and sponsorships support students in need at Catholic schools in Washington, DC. For more information or to register, visit www.cbndc.org or contact Justin Silvers at 202-957-5188 or jsilvers@cbndc.org.

OUTREACH

Simple Lenten Meals – Thank you! – The Social Justice Committee thanks everyone who took part in this year's Simple Lenten Meals Program, joining us in prayer, almsgiving, and community. Your donations benefitted Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl Program, Courtney's House, L'Arche Community, Northwest Center, Project Rachel and the Little Sisters of the Poor. A special thanks to our Young Adults, Knights of Columbus, RCIA Catechumens, Hispanic Community, and Servers for preparing and serving the meals.

Rice Bowl Donations – We prayed, fasted and gave alms and now we celebrate! Let us rejoice in our risen Lord and in the lives all around the world that we have helped change this Lent! Rice Bowl donations will be collected after every Mass on **April 2 - 3**. You may also drop them off at the rectory. For more information, visit www.csricebowl.org/. Questions? Email socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org.

LECTURAS DE HOY

¡Ya brillan los sagrados fulgores de la luz de Cristo, la luz purísima del Espíritu Santo está resplandeciendo, y los tesoros celestiales de la gloria y la divinidad se están desplegando! Las tinieblas han sido disipadas; la oscuridad ha huido derrotada por la luz resplandeciente del Hijo, las sombras de la muerte han sucumbido ante la luz admirable del Señor resucitado.

La vida luminosa se derrama sobre todas las cosas; el amanecer de los amaneceres alumbró todo el universo. Aquel que Era y que Es, el Lucero Matinal, el Cristo Triunfador, Inmortal y Altísimo, resplandece sobre toda la creación, con luz más potente y esplendorosa que la del sol.

Unimos nuestras voces a la de todo el universo, con todos los santos hombres y mujeres que nos han precedido y con los ángeles de los ejércitos celestiales, para entonar con gran devoción y júbilo los himnos de alabanza y adoración a nuestro Señor resucitado, ascendido y glorificado: "Alabado seas Jesucristo, Dios y Señor nuestro, porque te dieron muerte, pero tú resucitaste glorioso y triunfante. El sepulcro está vacío, porque la muerte no pudo retenerte. La oscuridad fue incapaz de absorber el resplandor de tu luz perfecta y admirable.

"Nos llenamos de júbilo en ti, Señor Jesús, porque hemos recibido el perdón gracias a tu nombre. Tú has destruido el poder del pecado. La infinita misericordia de Dios se ha hecho carne en ti y demuestra su fidelidad: Tú has resucitado y nos has librado a nosotros de las garras del pecado y ahora podemos vivir porque tú has resucitado de entre los muertos.

"Tu grandeza es tal que no podemos comprenderla ni describirla. Tú eres el Creador que nos ha vuelto a crear, el Cordero del sacrificio y el Rey victorioso. ¡Aleluya, Cristo Jesús ha resucitado! ¡Tú eres nuestra alegría y nuestra gloria! Bendito seas, Señor, por los siglos de los siglos."

"Gracias, amado Jesús, porque también nosotros hemos resucitado contigo. Es cierto que jamás podríamos resucitarnos a nosotros mismos, pero tú has quitado nuestra indignidad, nos has purificado y nos has llevado al lugar santo."

"Escogida con el permiso de la Palabra Entre Nosotros. Vol 35, Numero 3; febrero - marzo 2016.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo 27	He 10:34,37-43 / Col 3:1-4 / Jn 20:1-9 <i>Domingo de Pascua de la Resurrección del Señor</i>
Lunes 28	He 2:14,22-33 / Mt 28:8-15
Martes 29	He 2:36-41 / Jn 20:11-18
Miércoles 30	He 3:1-10 / Lc 24:13-35
Jueves 31	He 3:11-26 / Lc 24:35-48
Viernes 1	He 4:1-12 / Jn 21:1-14
Sábado 2	He 4:13-21 / Mc 16:9-15
Domingo 3	He 5:12-16 / Apoc 1:9-11,12-13,17-19 / Jn 20:19-31 <i>Segundo Domingo de Pascua, Domingo de la Divina Misericordia</i>

INTENCIONES DE MISAS

MASS INTENTIONS

March 27 – April 3

Sunday, March 27

7am – The Dyer Family (living)
8:30am – Dee Raberge
10am – Joseph & Carolyn Prucnal
11:30am – All parishioners
1pm – Fabio Ivan Castellon
5:30pm – Anne Marie Clifford

Monday, March 28

8am – Vincent J. Bollon
12:10pm – Ireland Commemoration

Tuesday, March 29

7am – Leo Yeck
8am – Daisy Bachi (living)
12:10pm – Marty & Jane Kendrick
5:30pm – Motie Family

Wednesday, March 30

7am – John V. Kelty
8am – V. Punsalan
12:10pm – Antonin Scalia
5:30pm – T. Bachi Family (living)

Thursday, March 31

8am – Joseph Le
12:10pm – Elisabeth M. Schilling
5:30pm – Jacques Delpi

Friday, April 1

7am – Special Intention JA & V (living)
8am – R. Beattie Family (living)
12:10pm – Olivier Burbano
5:30pm – Maria Espinoza

Saturday, April 2

8am – Thanksgiving
12:10pm – Anne & Edward Bachi (living)
5:30pm – Alfonso & Mercedes de Araque

Sunday, April 3

7am – All Parishioners
8:30am – Deacon Ulysses Rice
10am – Moises Lopez
11:30am – Mr. John Hoops
1pm – Candido Menjivar
5:30pm – Nicole Shank (living)

Se cancela la misa semanal de 7 de la mañana – La misa de 7 de la mañana de lunes, **4 de abril a viernes 8 de abril**, se está cancelando debido a que dos de nuestros sacerdotes de la rectoría están de vacaciones, y los sacerdotes externos que nos ayudan durante la semana no están disponibles. Sentimos esta inconveniencia. La misa semanal de 7 de la mañana se reanudará el lunes **11 de abril**.

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

Sacramentos Recibidos en la Pascua – Esta Pascua, dimos la bienvenida a los siguientes, que fueron recibidos en nuestra fe católica: Shanel Geeta Balloo, Ian Chung, Heather Do, Luna Hernandez, Richard Kraemer, Alexander Poonai y Adam Solomon, **fueron bautizados, recibieron su Primera Comunión y Confirmación**; Norma Douglas, John Bockelman, Lyndsey Fifield, Thomas Ingram, Robert Newton, Mihoko Owada, Richard Roddy, Marjorie Romeyn-Sanabria, Amanda Sweeney y Mark Turco **fueron recibidos en plena comunión con la Iglesia Católica**; y los siguientes candidatos católicos: Elise Attridge, Laurent Boulch, Lauren Petruzzi y Timothy Staudenmier **completaron sus Sacramentos de Iniciación** durante la vigilia Pascual.



Pascua – Celebra la misericordiosa increíble de Dios: Él que envió a su Hijo único hecho hombre, a morir por nosotros, vencer la muerte y resucitar. Él hizo todo esto para salvarnos de nuestra fragilidad humana y así traernos a la Vida Eterna con Él. No porque lo merecemos, pero porque Él nos ha creado y nos ama. Leemos en la Santa Escritura durante la Vigilia Pascual, “Los rociaré con agua pura y los purificaré de todas sus impurezas...Les daré un corazón nuevo y les infundiré un espíritu nuevo...ustedes serán mi pueblo y yo seré su Dios” (Ezequiel 36, 25-28). *Comparte en la celebración de misericordia.* misericordia.adw.org.

Próximamente – El lunes de Pascua **28 de marzo** las oficinas de la rectoría estarán cerradas. 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.

Cenas Simples de Cuaresma – ¡Gracias! – El Comité de Justicia Social quisiera agradecerles a todos los que participaron en las Cenas Simples de Cuaresma de este año. Unácese a nosotros en oración, caridad, y comunidad. Su donación beneficiara a: Catholic Relief Services programa de Plato de Arroz, Casa de Courtney, Centro Northwest, Comunidad de L’Arche y las Hermanitas de los Pobres. Reconocemos especialmente a los grupos de la Catedral; Jóvenes Adultos, Caballeros de Colon, Catecúmenos de RICA, Comunidad Hispana y servidores de los ministerios de Liturgia por haber preparado y servido las cenas.

Donaciones de los Plato de Arroz – Hemos orado, ayunado y dado limosna y ahora ¡celebramos! Alegrémonos en nuestro Señor resucitado y de las vidas que hemos ayudado a cambiar durante esta Cuaresma! Las donaciones de los platos de arroz serán recogidos después de cada misa el **2 & 3 de abril**. También puede entregar sus donaciones a la rectoría. Más información: www.csricebowl.org/. Preguntas mande un correo electrónico a: socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org.

Primer Viernes y Primer Sábado – Primer viernes de Exposición y Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento se celebrará después de la misa 12:10 del mediodía hasta 5:00 de la tarde el viernes **1 de abril** en la Capilla del Santísimo Sacramento. Todos son bienvenidos a adorar a nuestro Señor. El sábado **2 de abril** todos son bienvenidos a las

devociones del primer sábado después de la misa de 12:10 mediodía, seguida de hospitalidad en el salón de conferencia del Oeste.



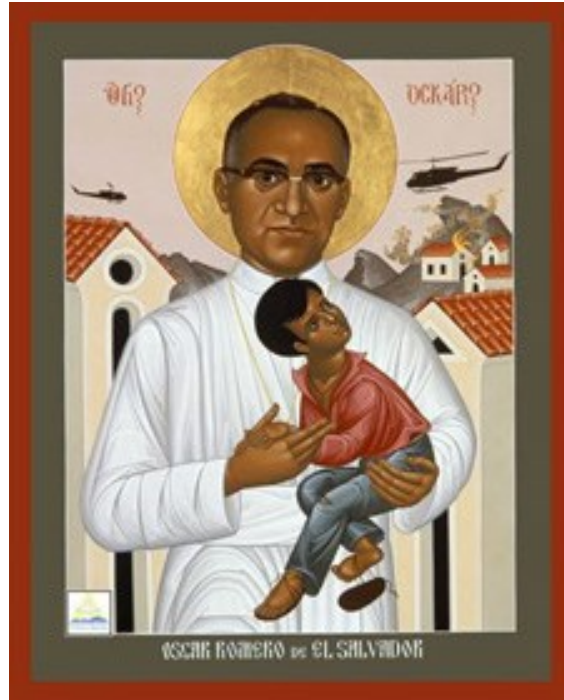
Domingo de la Divina Misericordia – *Jesucristo es la misericordia divina en persona.* (Papa Benedicto XVI) Únase a su familia parroquial

para la devoción de la Divina Misericordia en la Catedral, el próximo domingo **3 de abril** a las 2 de la tarde. Venga a la Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento inmediatamente después de la misa de la 1 en español (aproximadamente a la 2:15), a las 3 de la tarde recitación de la coronilla (alternando en español e inglés) concluyendo con la Bendición.

Clases de Confirmación para Adultos – Se ofrecerán clases de preparación para el sacramento de la Confirmación para adultos los domingos **10, 17, 24 de abril y 1 de mayo** de 11 de la mañana a 12:30 del mediodía. Las personas interesadas deben traer el certificado de bautizo vigente y es requerido asistir a la conferencia del **Opispo Mario Dorsonville** el martes **5 de abril**. Para más información e inscripción dejar un mensaje a Fátima al 202-347-3215 ext 543.

Misa de Jubileo Matrimonial 2016 – El Cardenal Wuerl estará presidiendo la misa anual de Jubileo Matrimonial para conmemorar a las parejas que están celebrando 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 o más años de matrimonio el domingo **19 de junio** del 2016 en la Basílica de la Inmaculada Concepción a las 2:00 de la tarde. Para registrarse llame a la rectoría al 202-347-3215, **a más tardar el viernes 1 de abril**.

Movie Screening - Proyección de la película “Monseñor: The Last Journey of Oscar Romero”



Thursday, March 31 at 6:45pm, East Conference Room
Refreshments will be served.

*Jueves, 31 de marzo a las 6:45 de la tarde,
Salón de Conferencias del Este. Se servirán refrescos.*

March 24th is the anniversary of Blessed Monseñor Oscar Romero's death, the Social Justice Committee invites you to reflect on the life and mission of the religious leader, whom Pope Francis has declared a martyr of the Church. All are invited to learn more about this courageous man who gave a voice to the oppressed poor of 1970's El Salvador.

A brief discussion will follow the showing of the film.

*El 24 de marzo es el aniversario del fallecimiento del Beato Monseñor Oscar Romero, el Comité de Justicia Social le invita a reflexionar sobre la vida y la misión del líder religioso quien el Papa Francisco declaró mártir de la Iglesia. Todos están invitados a aprender más acerca de este hombre valiente que dió una voz a los oprimidos pobres de El Salvador de la década de 1970.
Una breve discusión seguirá la proyección de la película.*

The film is in Spanish with English subtitles.

La película es en español con subtítulos en inglés.

Questions? *¿Preguntas?* Daniel Zazueta, dhzazueta@gmail.com &
Franz Kuo, franzkuo@gmail.com

ST. MATTHEW'S WOMEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT

April 22-24, 2016

All Women Parishioners and Friends are Welcome



“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” (Mk 6:31)

Washington Retreat House

4000 Harewood Road, NE | Washington, DC 20017-1595

Retreat Leader – Rev. Jacob Restrick, OP

Dominican Friar of the Province of St. Joseph
and Chaplain to Dominican Cloistered Nuns

Check-in at Washington Retreat House is Friday, April 22 at 5:30PM (earlier or later arrival is fine also), followed by dinner at 6:30PM. The retreat ends around 12Noon on Sunday, April 24. For more information, contact Erin Cromer, St. Matthew's Retreat Promoter, at 202-580-9728 or emcromer3@gmail.com. A non-refundable \$25 deposit is required, with the balance due upon arrival.

Women's Retreat Registration Form

MAIL TO:

Erin Cromer
P O Box 21590
Washington, DC 20009
202-580-9728

Please make _____ reservation(s) for the Weekend Retreat to be held April 22-24, 2016 at the Washington Retreat House. The offering is \$170.00. I understand that a \$25.00 non-refundable deposit will hold my reservation.

Checks should be made payable to: Washington Retreat House.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Jesus Christ is divine mercy in person. (Pope Benedict XVI)

Join your parish family for Divine Mercy Devotions in the Cathedral next Sunday, **April 3**. Come for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately following the 1pm Spanish Mass (approximately 2:15pm) and the praying of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy (alternating in Spanish and English) at 3 pm, concluding with Benediction.

The Second Sunday of Easter is **Divine Mercy Sunday**, established by Pope John Paul II on the day that he canonized Sister Faustina Kowalska in Rome (April 30, 2000). The special devotion to the divine mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina. On the day of his election as Pope, Benedict XVI spoke about the devotion of Pope John Paul II to the divine mercy, saying: “We listen with joy to the proclamation of the year of mercy... *Jesus Christ is divine mercy in person: To find Christ means to find the mercy of God...* The day of vengeance and the year of favor coincide in the paschal mystery, in Christ, dead and risen. This is the vengeance of God: He himself, in the person of the Son, suffered for us. The more we are touched by the mercy of the Lord, the more we are in solidarity with his suffering, the more disposed we are to complete in our flesh ‘what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions’ (Colossians 1:24).”

To learn more about Divine Mercy Sunday and the indulgences attached to devotions in honor of the divine mercy, visit <http://thedivinemercy.org> or <http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/backgr.htm>.

In his Encyclical on the Mercy of God, *Dives in Misericordia* (Latin for “Rich in Mercy”), Pope John Paul II wrote: “Although God ‘dwells in unapproachable light,’ He speaks to man by means of the whole of the universe: ‘Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made.’ This indirect and imperfect knowledge, achieved by the intellect seeking God by means of creatures through the visible world, falls short of ‘vision of the Father.’ ‘No one has ever seen God,’ writes St. John, in order to stress the truth that ‘the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.’ This ‘making known’ reveals God in the most profound mystery of His being, one and three, surrounded by ‘unapproachable light.’ Nevertheless, through this ‘making known’ by Christ we know God above all in His relationship of love for man: in His ‘philanthropy.’ It is precisely here that ‘His invisible nature’ becomes in a special way ‘visible,’ incomparably more visible than through all the other ‘things that have been made’: it becomes visible in Christ and through Christ, through His actions and His words, and finally through His death on the cross and His resurrection.” (Pope John Paul II, from “*Dives in Misericordia*,” November 30, 1980.)

Mercy – A Common Word; A Call to Action

With good reason, Pope Francis has called the world’s attention to the notion of mercy. He is emphasizing “mercy” in a special way by designating it as the principle focus of a “holy year” This “holy” year in 2016 is an extraordinary action because the Pope’s action is beyond the normal pattern of holy year designations.

Most people are familiar with the meaning and use of the word “mercy.” Still, the Pope’s action suggests that we need to take a fresh look at a word which has become a somewhat mundane idea, but has deep roots in human activity, more so in light of Christ and his Gospel.

It might be well to understand some etymology of the word. It has its origins in the Latin word “merces” that the ancient Romans used to describe “the price paid for something or a reward for something done.” Then, the early Christians adopted the word, giving it a much different meaning “to describe a spiritual reward for doing a kindness in response to an unkindness.” A somewhat altered form of this is captured in the French word “merci” (thank you), meaning an appreciation of something done, but not requested. “Misericordia” is another Latin word commonly associated with mercy, derived from “miser” (anguished) and “cordis” (heart).

The Christian adaptation of the Latin/Roman concept stems from the call of Christ reiterated in Matthew’s gospel (22:37-40): “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” This command began to be fulfilled from the earliest days of Christianity in the particular actions of the individual and the community. Overtime, these defined actions became codified by the Church, particularly by St. Thomas Aquinas, in what we know today as the “**corporal**” and “**spiritual**” works of mercy. In the history of the Church, many of these works of mercy became the founding principle of many apostolic communities of men and women.

The **corporal** works of mercy are seven and are generally derived again from Matthew’s gospel (25:35-36, 40), and are associated with one’s physical or external condition. They are given as: *feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the imprisoned, and visit the sick*; the last is from Tobit in the Old Testament: *bury the dead*.

In like manner, the **spiritual** works of mercy are concerned with the internal condition of the human person. They are given as: *instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, reconcile sinners, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses willingly, comfort the afflicted, and pray for the living and dead*. There are also specific scriptural citations considered the basis for each of these spiritual works.

As members of the Christian community, each of us is called this year, in a special way, to respond to Pope Francis’ invitation to DO mercy, either as individuals or as part of some parish or other action group. As members of the cathedral community, in which the Archdiocesan Holy Year Door of Mercy is located, we are called to be particular examples of mercy.

To quote Pope Francis: Let us become agents of God’s mercy!

■ Deacon Bartholomew Merella



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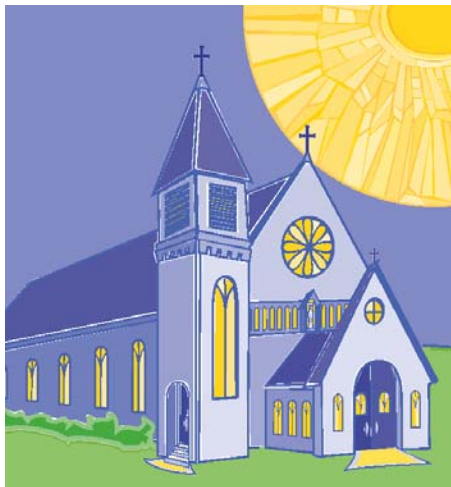
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"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." (Peter 4:10)

Weekly Offertory Gift: \$ _____

(**Note:** The total amount will be determined by the number of
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COLLECTION	AMOUNT	MONTH	COLLECTION	AMOUNT	MONTH
<input type="checkbox"/> Cathedral Maintenance	\$ _____	Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Father	\$ _____	June
<input type="checkbox"/> Music Ministry	\$ _____	Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Communications & Human Development	\$ _____	August
<input type="checkbox"/> Poor Box/Outreach	\$ _____	Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Assumption	\$ _____	August
<input type="checkbox"/> Solemnity of Mary	\$ _____	January	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic University	\$ _____	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Church Missions within the US	\$ _____	January	<input type="checkbox"/> Propagation of the Faith/ World Missions	\$ _____	October
<input type="checkbox"/> Ash Wednesday	\$ _____	February	<input type="checkbox"/> All Saints Day	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Churches in the Developing World	\$ _____	February	<input type="checkbox"/> All Souls Day *	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Thursday	\$ _____	March/April	<input type="checkbox"/> Archdiocesan Priests' Retirement	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Land	\$ _____	March/April	<input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Easter Flowers	\$ _____	March/April	<input type="checkbox"/> Immaculate Conception	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Easter Sunday	\$ _____	March/April	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Flowers	\$ _____	December
(In addition to regular Sunday gift)	\$ _____	March/April	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Relief Services	\$ _____	May			

* Please call the church at 202-347-3215 with the names of your intentions for this collection.

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