

TODAY'S READINGS

He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. (Luke 24:45)

We all know what it feels like when we finally understand something we have previously doubted or haven't fully grasped. It's like having a little light go on in our heads. When Jesus opened the minds of his disciples, he was showing them that everything was going to be all right. He had risen from the dead, and he was in control. There was nothing to be afraid of.

So what exactly did Jesus tell them? It's anybody's guess. All Luke tells us is that Jesus showed them how the Scriptures were fulfilled through him. Perhaps he walked them through the story of Adam and Eve. Maybe he talked about the events that pointed to his mission: about Abraham's sacrifice of his son Isaac; about Moses, the Passover lamb, and the Israelites' deliverance from slavery; or about the rite of atonement in the Book of Leviticus.

Maybe Jesus spoke about the suffering servant who was pierced for our transgressions (Isaiah 53:5). Or maybe he talked about the words of the prophet Zechariah, who said that God will pour out his Spirit as his people look on one whom they have pierced and "mourn for him as one mourns for an only child" (Zechariah 12:10). Whatever he said, Jesus filled them all with joy and deepened their faith. Each story brought them more clarity about God's plan.

Likewise, Jesus wants to open our minds. He wants to tell us that the feast we celebrated two weeks ago is the fulfillment of God's plan for his people—of his plan for each of us. It was foretold in the Old Testament and fulfilled in Christ. And one day, when he comes again, we will see the completion of this plan as sin and suffering are done away with forever.

Today at Mass, ask Jesus to open your eyes so that you can see this magnificent plan more clearly. Then let what you see propel your faith to a new level, just as it did for the disciples two thousand years ago.

"Open my eyes, Lord, to your glorious plans."

Taken from *The Word Among Us*, Easter 2015, Vol. 34, Number 4: Used with permission.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 19 Acts 3:13-15,17-19 / 1 Jn 2:1-5 / Lk 24:35-48

Monday 20 Acts 6:8-15 / Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday 21 Acts 7:51—8:1 / Jn 6:30-35

St. Anselm

Wednesday 22 Acts 8:1-8 / Jn 6:35-40

Thursday 23 Acts 8:26-40 / Jn 6:44-51

Sts. George & Adalbert

Friday 24 Acts 9:1-20 / Jn 6:52-59

St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

Saturday 25 1 Pt 5:5-14 / Mk 16:15-20

St. Mark

Sunday 26 Acts 4:8-12 / 1 Jn 3:1-2 / Jn 10:11-18

LECTURAS DE HOY

Todo lo que había sucedido era extraordinario. El Maestro, a quien los discípulos habían seguido durante tres años, con quien habían recorrido toda Palestina y a quien habían visto morir en la cruz, se presentaba ahora ante ellos y les decía que Dios lo había resucitado de entre los muertos. ¡Era como para que la vida les cambiara por completo! ¿Acaso se quedaría indiferente usted si hubiera presenciado lo mismo?

Para que los discípulos estuvieran seguros de que su muerte no había sido accidental, Jesús les abrió el entendimiento para que comprendieran que en él se cumplía todo lo que decían las escrituras hebreas sobre el Mesías. En efecto, de principio a fin, Jesucristo es el cumplimiento de todo lo que Dios anunció y prometió. Durante toda la historia, el Todopoderoso fue preparando meticulosamente el momento en que su Hijo vendría a la tierra a merecernos el perdón de nuestros pecados. Cada suceso, cada promesa profética, cada oración y cada comentario de sabiduría que aparece en la Escritura es parte de un hermoso mosaico que revela otro aspecto de Jesús y del gran amor que le tiene a su pueblo.

Además, Cristo no sólo ascendió al cielo para permanecer oculto a nuestros ojos hasta su Segunda Venida; hoy está resucitado en gloria para compartir con sus fieles la esperanza y el gozo de su resurrección. En efecto, el Señor desea que todos recibamos su vida divina y experimentemos la victoria sobre el pecado y la muerte.

Así como el Señor abrió la mente de los discípulos para que lo reconocieran en la Escritura, también desea hacer lo mismo con nosotros, porque leyendo sus palabras y meditándolas en el corazón podemos efectivamente experimentar su amor y su presencia. Dios quiere que sepamos que siempre tuvo el deseo de entregar a su Hijo único para que nos reconciliásemos con el Padre y tuviésemos parte en su vida divina.

"Padre celestial, llena mi corazón de gratitud por la vida nueva que me ofreces y abre mis ojos para ver lo maravilloso que es el plan que tienes para tus fieles, ese plan que nos has revelado en las palabras de la Sagrada Escritura."

Escogida con el permiso de *La Palabra Entre Nosotros*, Vol. 34, Número 4: Pascua 2015.

MILESTONES IN CATHEDRAL HISTORY

1895 - June 2: The first Mass is celebrated in the "new" St. Matthew's Church (the current location on Rhode Island Avenue, NW) on Pentecost Sunday.

PARISH CALENDAR

April 19 - 26

Sunday 19—Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar continúan a las 11:00 de la mañana.

A blessing of engaged couples is given at the 11:30am Mass.

Hora Santa bilingüe (inglés y español) para jóvenes adultos se llevará a cabo en la Catedral a las 2:15 de la tarde.

A bilingual Holy Hour (English and Spanish) for young adults is held in the Cathedral at 2:15pm.

The Cathedral Coffeehouse meets after the 5:30pm Mass in the West Conference Room.

Monday 20—The Cathedral closes after the 8am Mass and reopens at 12:30pm. There are no confessions or 12:10pm Mass.

A Mass of Ordination of **Bishop-elect Mario E. Dorsonville** is held at 2pm.

A Eucharistic Holy Hour is held in the Cathedral from 6 to 7pm, with confessions in English and Spanish.

The Stewardship Committee meets at 6:45pm in the North Conference Room.

Wine and Wisdom meets at 7pm in the East Conference Room.

Tuesday 21—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 22—Breaking Open the Word meets at 7pm in the West Conference Room.

Thursday 23—The Knights of Columbus meet at 7:30pm in the West Conference Room.

Saturday 25—A rosary procession to Planned Parenthood begins at 10:45am.

Sunday 26—Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar continúan a las 11:00 de la mañana.

Cardinal Seán O'Malley gives a 175th Parish Anniversary Address at 3pm in the Cathedral. The Cathedral Coffeehouse meets after the 5:30pm Mass in the West Conference Room.



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 Washington 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!

NEWS AND NOTES

Blessing of Engaged Couples – At this Sunday's 11:30am Mass, Msgr. Jameson and other parish clergy confer a blessing of engaged couples. Please pray for these couples as they prepare to celebrate the sacrament of marriage and begin their married life.

Ordination of Our New Auxiliary Bishop – Bishop-elect Mario E. Dorsonville will be ordained as auxiliary Bishop of Washington at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle on Monday, **April 20** at a Mass of Ordination celebrated by **Cardinal Wuerl** beginning at 2pm. On that date, the Cathedral will close after the 8am Mass and will reopen at 12:30pm. There will be no confessions or 12:10pm Mass. The Mass of Ordination will be open to the public, but will be limited due to the large number of reserved seats for the clergy, family and friends of Bishop-elect Dorsonville.

Please pray for our newly-appointed bishop as he undertakes this important pastoral responsibility in our Church.

Two Opportunities for a Eucharistic Holy Hour – You are invited to adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at these Eucharistic Holy Hours:

Sunday, April 19, 2:15 to 3:15pm – Bilingual Holy Hour and Confessions for Young Adults (all parishioners and friends are welcome), with a reflection by Deacon Kyle Ratuiste and Confessions in English and Spanish with Fr. Rafael Barbieri

Monday, April 20, 6 to 7pm – Monthly evening of Eucharistic Adoration for all, with a reflection by Br. Gabriel Torretta, OP, and Confessions in English and Spanish with Fr. Rafael Barbieri

Rectory Hours – The rectory hours from **April 18** through **May 13** will be:

Saturday and Sunday – Closed

Monday thru Thursday – 9am to 4:30pm

Friday – 9am to 4pm

FAITH FORMATION



At the Easter Vigil, we welcomed 21 people into the Church (pictured above with Cardinal Wuerl, Msgr. Jameson and Theresa Prymuszewski.)

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

Adult Confirmation Preparation 2015 – Final Call to Sign Up – Each spring during the Easter season, St. Matthew’s offers adult Confirmation preparation for active, baptized Catholics who already have received their First Eucharist. Preparation includes four Thursday evenings 7pm- 9pm (**April 23, 30, May 7 and 14**) and one Saturday Retreat (**May 16**) Confirmation Date: May 24 Pentecost Sunday. **All completed registrations and fees are due by the first session of April 23.** Registration forms are available through Theresa Prymuszewski (contact info above).

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) – R.C.I.A. is an ongoing process of exploring our Catholic faith. Please contact Theresa Prymuszewski for more information (contact info above).

Church of Mercy Lenten Faith Sharing Groups Pot-Luck – Group members will meet on Friday, **May 1** following the 5:30pm Mass in the North Conference Room for a pot-luck meal. Come, join with other participants, enjoy a meal and share your experiences and plan for further opportunities to grow in your faith through this faith sharing process.

Congratulations! – The following people successfully completed the Archdiocese of Washington Faith Foundations Catechesis 101 Course offered at St. Matthew’s in January 2015: Patricia Boehme, Norma Cindy Canedo, Lydia Clegg, Gregory Gross, Emily Kessel and Kathy Lester. (Online course): Kevin McLaughlin
Thank you for your dedication and commitment to grow in your faith and willingly share it with others!

Cathedral Book Club – The next meeting of the Cathedral Book Club, on Monday, **May 11** from 6:45 to 8pm in the West Conference Room, will focus on *Journey to the Sun: Junipero Serra’s Dream and the Funding of California*. Last Fall at the Cathedral, the author, Gregory Orfalea, addressed a meeting of the Serra Club, which is named for the book’s subject, Fr. Junipero Serra. Fr. Serra is slated to be canonized by Pope Francis when he visits Washington this coming September. All are invited for this timely discussion.

Easter Exultet Displayed

The *Exultet* is an ancient hymn of praise and blessing that is sung at the beginning of the Easter Vigil liturgy. It takes its name from the first word of the hymn, “exulted.” from the Latin “ex saltare” (i.e. to leap for joy). You can see the parish’s ritual copy of the Easter *Exultet* on display during the Easter Season. This specially decorated copy of the chant music is displayed in front of the low ambo (pulpit) just inside the sanctuary railing. It will be there each weekend to mark the Easter Season in the same manner as the Paschal Candle.

See the front page of the parish website for a link to Deacon Merella’s explanation of the Exultet (published in last week’s bulletin) and the text of this hymn.

RESPECT LIFE

Join the Respect Life Ministry – “Caring for life from the beginning to the end. What a simple thing, what a beautiful thing... So, go forth and don’t be discouraged. Care for life. It’s worth it.”

—Pope Francis

This month’s rosary procession to the abortion clinic, Planned Parenthood, will take place on Saturday, **April 25**, at 10:45am. To participate, please gather at the main entrance of the Cathedral. For more information on service opportunities and involvement with the Respect Life Ministry, contact Justin Silvers at stmatthewsrespectlife@yahoo.com.

Having Unresolved Feelings after Abortion? – The Archdiocese of Washington’s Project Rachel Ministry is forming support groups on Thursday evenings (7-9pm) and Wednesday mornings (9-11am). Locations are disclosed to women who register. Contact Alma Maltez at 301-853-4565 or visit ProjectRachel@adw.org. All contacts are confidential.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo 19	He 3:13-15,17-19 / 1 Jn 2:1-5 / Lc 24:35-48
Lunes 20	He 6:8-15 / Jn 6:22-29
Martes 21	He 7:51—8:1 / Jn 6:30-35
<i>San Anselmo</i>	
Miércoles 22	He 8:1-8 / Jn 6:35-40
Jueves 23	He 8:26-40 / Jn 6:44-51
<i>San Jorge y San Alberto</i>	
Viernes 24	He 9:1-20 / Jn 6:52-59
<i>San Fidel de Sigmaringen</i>	
Sábado 25	1 Pe 5:5-14 / Mc 16:15-20
<i>San Marcos</i>	
Domingo 26	He 4:8-12 / 1 Jn 3:1-2 / Jn 10:11-18

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

Ordenación de Nuestro Nuevo Obispo Auxiliar – El **Obispo Electo Mario E. Dorsonville** será ordenado como nuestro nuevo Obispo Auxiliar aquí en la Catedral de San Mateo Apóstol el **lunes 20 de abril**, la misa de ordenación será celebrada por el **Cardenal Wuerl** a las 2:00 de la tarde. Su Santidad el Papa Francisco recientemente anunció su nombramiento para la Arquidiócesis de Washington.

El 20 de abril la Catedral cerrará después de la misa de las 8 de la mañana y se volverá a abrir a las 12:30 del mediodía. No habrá confesiones ni misa de las 12:10. La misa de las 2:00 de la tarde está abierta al público con limitaciones debido al gran número de asientos reservados para el clérigo, familiares y amigos del Obispo Electo Dorsonville.

Pedimos sus oraciones por el nuevo Obispo Electo en su nueva misión pastoral tan llena de responsabilidades en la Iglesia.

Dos oportunidades para una Hora Santa con Confesiones: ven — a adorar al Santísimo! – Les invitamos a adorar a nuestro Señor en el Santísimo Sacramento en la Catedral durante estas dos Horas Santa:

Domingo, 19 de abril de 2:15 a 3:15 de la tarde – Hora Santa bilingüe y confesión para jóvenes adultos (todos los feligreses y amigos son bienvenidos), el diácono Kyle Ratuiste tendrá una reflexión y padre Rafael Barbieri escuchará confesiones en inglés y español

Lunes, 20 de abril de 6:00 a 7:00 de la tarde – noche mensual de adoración al Santísimo para todos, el hermano Gabriel Torretta, OP tendrá una reflexión y



padre Rafael Barbieri escuchará confesiones en inglés y español.

Horario de la Rectoría – Empezando el sábado **18 de abril** hasta el **13 de mayo**, la rectoría tendrá el siguiente horario:

Sábado y domingo – Cerrado

Lunes a jueves – 9:00 de la mañana a 4:30 de la tarde

Viernes – 9:00 de la mañana a 4:00 de la tarde

Formación en la Fe – Grupo de Oración – El grupo de Oración continúa con los temas de Formación en la Fe, durante el grupo de oración, los martes a las 7:00 de la tarde. Estos temas empiezan después del rosario a las 7:30 de la tarde. El tema para el **21 de abril** será: El Cuarto Mandamiento. El padre Mariano Vicchi, IVE será el invitado especial.



Únase al Ministerio de Respeto a la Vida – “Sentir cariño hacia la vida desde el principio hasta el fin. Qué cosa tan simple, que cosa tan hermosa... De este modo, vayan adelante y no se desanimen.

Sientan cariño por la vida. Vale la pena.”

– Papa Francisco

La procesión mensual del rosario a la clínica de aborto, *Planned Parenthood*, será el sábado **25 de abril**, a las 10:45 de la mañana. Participantes son invitados a asistir a la misa del mediodía, después de orar en la clínica. Para participar, reúnanse en la entrada central de la Catedral. Para más información sobre oportunidades de servicio y participación en el Ministerio de Respeto a la Vida, póngase en contacto con Justin Silvers al stmatthewsrespectlife@yahoo.com. También puede llamar a la rectoría al 202-347-3215.

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.

Adorers Needed – The St. Agnes Perpetual Adoration Chapel (Arlington, VA) is in great need of new permanent adorers and substitutes at all hours of the day and night. Visit <http://stagnes-adoration.org> to review the most current needs. Contact: Greg King at 571-205-8661 or coordinator@stagnes-adoration.org.

MASS INTENTIONS

April 19 – April 26

Sunday, April 19

7am – Bridie Doherty (living)
 8:30am – All Parishioners
 10am – Vincent J. Celeste
 11:30am – Ruth Vera
 1pm – Alfonso Araque
 5:30pm – Miss Genevieve Crawford (living)

Monday, April 20

7am – Benita Marcelo Yacat
 8am – Mariceli De Osorio (living)
 5:30pm – Naomi Schoenly

Tuesday, April 21

7am – Judy Robinson
 8am – Jennifer Cole (living)
 12:10pm – Tomas Ledesma
 5:30pm – Barbara Bohn

Wednesday, April 22

7am – Jerry Stoehr (living)
 8am – Fausto Bautista, Sr.
 12:10pm – Michael Taylor (living)
 5:30pm – Edith Nava

Thursday, April 23

7am – Sylvie Venne
 8am – Filemon Jaurigue
 12:10pm – Acción de Gracias
 5:30pm – Helen Hogan

Friday, April 24

8am – Conchita Jaurigue
 12:10pm – Ramon Bueno

Saturday, April 25

12:10pm – Gladys Chavez

Sunday, April 26

7am – Rodolfo F. Calzado
 8:30am – Meaghan Dagner
 10am – Mrs. Theresa Flanagan
 11:30am – All Parishioners
 1pm – José Freiras
 5:30pm – Shirley Ann Garafalo

To arrange a Mass intention, speak 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.

YOUNG ADULTS

Cathedral Coffeehouse - Sunday, April 19 – following 5:30pm Mass – West Conference Room – Join Br. Gabriel, Br. Patrick, and other young adults after the 5:30pm Mass for Cathedral Coffeehouse. **In 20 minutes or less** we promise you'll learn something new and have a few laughs. The topic will be **Angels, Demons, and You**. Contact: stmattsyam@gmail.com

C†YA for a Discussion *Date Change for April* - Thursday, April 23 - 7 to 8:30pm - Scion Restaurant (2100 P St NW/ Dupont Circle) – This month we will discuss the papal encyclical *Evangelii Nuntiandi (On Evangelization in the Modern World)* by Pope Paul VI. The topic will be **"Conversion and Violence: Punching! Kicking! Believing in God!"** No prior knowledge of the encyclical is required. Come for a lively discussion! Contact: Mike at m.owens810@gmail.com

C†YA Spring Retreat: Finding God in All Things – Saturday, May 30 – Sunday 31 – Bellarmine Retreat Center (Waynesboro, PA) – Register Now! The theme is "Finding God in All Things." There will be time for quiet personal prayer, group reflection, hiking, confession, Mass and making friends! Fr. Carter Griffin of the Archdiocese of Washington will be joining us as well. Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Register [here](http://goo.gl/PYPzex) (<http://goo.gl/PYPzex>) by Friday, May 15. Contact Hannah hannahrdell@gmail.com for more information or to get involved as a small group leader.

DC Catholic – Spring Theology on Tap – Spring series "Millennials and Marriage: Embracing 'I Do'

When So Many Don't" runs Tuesday, April 7 - Tuesday, May 12. Happy Hour weekly from 6-7, Talk from 7-8 at Buffalo Billiards (1330 19th Street NW / Dupont Circle)

MARRIAGE

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.

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.

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH 175TH ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS

Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap.

A Franciscan View

Sunday, April 26, 3:00 PM

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE



Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Boston, was appointed by Pope Francis in 2013 to the Council of Cardinals that serve as special advisors to the Holy Father with regard to the organization of the Curia in Rome. In March 2014, Pope Francis named Cardinal O'Malley to the newly established Vatican Commission for the Protection of Minors. A professed Capuchin Franciscan since 1965, Cardinal O'Malley will address us in the Cathedral on "A Franciscan View."

Sign Language Interpreted

**All are invited to attend this free event and
to join us for a reception following the address.**

For more information,
call 202.587.5139 or email
tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE
1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20036
Metro: Red Line to Farragut North (L Street Exit) or Dupont Circle (South Exit)
voice 202.347.3215 fax 202.347.7184 web www.stmatthewscathedral.org

175th Parish Anniversary News

Memories Wanted! – Your help is needed to mark the 175th Anniversary of the Parish of St. Matthew the Apostle, now the Cathedral Parish, and since 1939, the seat of the Archdiocese of Washington. **You are invited now and throughout 2015 to share stories and memories of how your Catholic faith has shaped your life, your faith and your family.**

Maybe you have a story of how your Catholic education has made a difference to your future, how you drew closer to your faith because of your Cathedral involvement, or how Catholic Charities or a Cathedral program or ministry offered you help, hope, or the chance to serve others when you needed it. Share your favorite memories of parish festivals, volunteering, liturgies, social justice events, Christmas Masses and Easter mornings.

The anniversary celebration of our parish is best marked by the inspirations, gratitude, joy, and power of faith. Your stories and those of your ancestors reflect how St. Matthew's had shared the joy of the Gospel in downtown Washington, DC for 175 years. **Check the website front page to read the featured and archived stories!**

Please email stories, in **250 words or less**, to reply@stmatthewscathedral.org, or mail them to Msgr. Ronald Jameson at Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, 1725 Rhode Island Ave., NW Washington, DC 20036-3001. Please include the words "Anniversary Story" in the email heading or on the envelope.



Help St. Matthew's Discover its History! – The 175th Anniversary Publication Committee is looking for volunteer researchers, writers, and editors to assist with compiling and publishing a new history of St. Matthew's. Researchers are needed to visit libraries and archives in the DC area for research in April and May 2015, to supplement existing resources in the Cathedral Archives and help

fill in the gaps in St. Matthew's parish history. Writers and editors are needed to help write and edit text in June and July 2015. Volunteers with access to library research databases are particularly needed as are those with extensive writing and editing experience. Training will be given to all volunteers. Please contact Dan Evans at 175thanniversary@stmatthewscathedral.org to volunteer.

Call for Cathedral Parish Life Photos – Do you have photos of your parents' or grandparents' wedding at St. Matthews? Photos of baptisms? Or of your family standing in front of the altar at Easter? The 175th Anniversary Publication Committee seeks historic photos of events at St. Matthew's for potential use in our anniversary documents. Please submit photos with the date and description of the event to Dan Evans at 175thanniversary@stmatthewscathedral.org or contact Dan at 202-587-5138. We can assist with scanning and copying your originals. All submissions will be become part of the Cathedral Archives.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH 175TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Sunday, April 26, 3:00 pm**
Address by Cardinal Seán O'Malley, followed by a reception
 - **Sunday, October 11, after all Masses**
Celebration of our many cultures, with traditional food, dress, music and dance
 - **Saturday, October 17, 6:00 pm**
175th Anniversary Gala, with cocktails, dinner and dancing
 - **Sunday, November 1, 12:00 noon (combining 11:30 am and 1:00 pm Masses)**
Bilingual Mass celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the founding of St. Matthew's Parish, with Cardinal Wuerl as Principal Celebrant, followed by a reception
 - **Sunday, November 22, 7:30 pm**
175th Anniversary Concert, featuring the Schola Cantorum and Festival Singers
 - **Sunday, December 13, 7:30 pm**
Lessons and Carols, a celebration of the Birth of Christ in Word and Song, featuring the Schola Cantorum
- Times subject to change.
Watch for future announcements.*

BIBLE STUDY ON THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES



Time: 10:30 to 11:45am

(Consider staying for our 12:10pm Mass afterward.)

Dates: Saturdays, April 11, 18 & May 2, 16

Place – East Conference Room

Presenter – Father Jack Hurley

April 11	The Coming of the Holy Spirit
April 18	Peter and Persecution
May 2	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles
May 16	From Corinth to Rome

Please bring a Bible and your own morning beverage.
Homemade coffee cake will be provided.

NO RSVP NECESSARY & NO COST TO ATTEND!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

*Contact: Theresa Prymuszewski
Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation
202.587.5139 direct line
tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org*

EASTER SEASON AND PENTECOST

This great liturgical season of the Church begins with the great octave week that solemnifies the feast of Easter by prolonging its celebration over the next eight days ending on the next Sunday. This Sunday following Easter is of equal liturgical solemnity to Easter Sunday and became known in the 1st century as “Whitsunday” in reference to the white vestments used for the liturgy. The solemnity is marked in several ways one of which is the double “alleluia” in the dismissal rite of the Mass during each day of the week. In the ancient Church, this solemn week was devoted to giving great attention to those newly baptized at the Easter vigil. In many cultures, this was the week in which many parents brought their children to church to celebrate and remind them of their own baptism.

The genesis of the fifty-day Easter period and the feast of Pentecost, particularly in the 1st century of the Church’s existence, derives from the Jewish celebration of the Old Testament “feast of weeks” (or *Shabuoth* in Hebrew). Much was debated and written by early church scholars about the calculation of the Easter season’s fifty days and its theological significance and symbology. The same is true for the feast of the Ascension and its “forty-day” event in the Easter/Pentecost scheme of things.

While the Church gave much attention to the solemnity of the first week following Easter, it established a fifty-day period during which it continuously witnessed to the paschal mystery of the suffering, dying and rising of Jesus Christ. It is from this fifty-day period that the title Pentecost is derived. The period is also marked by the gospels for each Sunday being derived from that of the evangelist John. Another special mark of the season is the use of the sprinkling rite during the liturgy on the Sundays of Easter, another reminder of our baptism. Another distinction of the season is that each Sunday during the period is denoted in the liturgical calendar as the Sunday **of** Easter, not a Sunday after Easter, indicative of its special relationship to the Easter feast.

The crowning close of the season is the feast we now know as Pentecost which for many centuries was considered the glorious close to the Easter season, especially in the churches of the Eastern rite. While recalling the specific connection to the Easter feast, Pentecost became uniquely devoted to the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus gathered in the upper room, praised in hymn by the great sequence “Veni Spiritu Sancte.” While historically, white was the color of the vestments used on this feast recalling Easter, red soon became the color to mark this feast, interpreted by Pope Innocent III in the 12th century to symbolize the tongues of fire descending upon the disciples.

In some European countries, customs developed to honor the feast of Pentecost, such as scattering rose leaves from church roofs (Italy), the blowing of trumpets to recall the sound of mighty wind (France), reading of poetic prayers at vespers (Eastern Europe), processions with flowers and green branches (Russia). None of these traditions have carried over to the American church, although the sacrament of confirmation is frequently celebrated on this day in the US.

-- A note of thanks to liturgical scholars A. G. Martimort, Thomas Talley and Adolf Adam, the sources for my articles on Lent, Holy Week and Easter Season/Pentecost.

-- Deacon Bartholomew J. Merella



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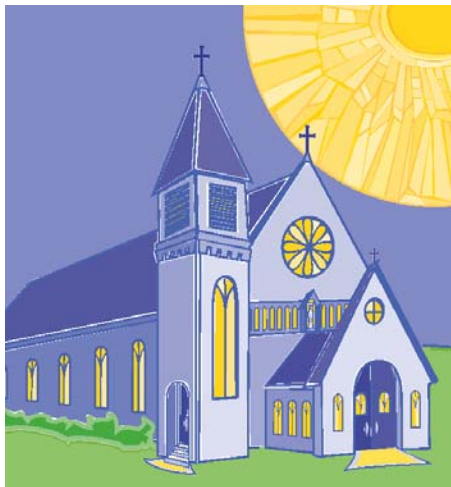
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<input type="checkbox"/> Solemnity of Mary	\$ _____	January	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic University	\$ _____	September
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<input type="checkbox"/> Ash Wednesday	\$ _____	March	<input type="checkbox"/> All Saints Day	\$ _____	November
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