

## TODAY'S READINGS

**N**o servant can serve two masters. (Luke 16:13)  
Have you heard about the dying man who won the lottery? Concerned that the excitement would be too much for him, the man's family asked their parish priest to tell him the good news. When the pastor told the man that he had won \$10 million, the man replied, "I want to give half of it to the Church." The priest was so surprised that he had a heart attack. This little joke tells us how much of an impact money can have on us.

Today's Gospel asks us, "What is your attitude toward money?" Here are a few ideas that might help you answer that question.

First, having money is not a sin. It's our love of money that separates us from God. Jesus wants to be first in our lives—above our money and possessions.

Second, Jesus asks us to be good stewards of our money. He wants us to be prudent, honest, and responsible. We should never allow greed or dishonesty to dominate us. Instead, we should use our money wisely, invest it wisely, and be as generous as we can.

Third, donating to the Church and other charities, even if we can give only a small amount, is a key aspect of our stewardship. Scripture calls us to hear "the cry of the poor" (Proverbs 21:13). We can be assured that whenever we give away our earthly treasures, God will reward us with heavenly treasures—"eternal dwellings" (Luke 16:9).

Finally, remember that your money is not yours; it belongs to God. The moment you die, you will no longer own your money. Yes, you can give it to your children or to charity. However, money will be absolutely useless to you. The only way it will matter is the degree to which you have used it to help people: your family, your friends, the Church, and the poor.

Money is a very complex and emotional topic, so ask the Holy Spirit to help you learn how to keep it in the right perspective.

*"Jesus, teach me to be a good steward."*

Taken from *The Word Among Us*, September 20156 Vol. 35, Number 8: Used with permission.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

**Sunday 18** Am 8:4-7 / 1 Tm 2:1-8 / Lk 16:1-13

*St. Matthew (celebrated at the 11:30am & 1pm Masses)*

**Monday 19** Prv 3:27-34 / Lk 8:16-18

*St. Januarius*

**Tuesday 20** Prv 21:1-6,10-13 / Lk 8:19-21

*Sts. Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and companions*

**Wednesday 21** Eph 4:1-7,11-13 / Mt 9:9-13

*St. Matthew*

**Thursday 22** Eccl 1:2-11 / Lk 9:7-9

**Friday 23** Eccl 3:1-11 / Lk 9:18-22

*St. Pius of Pietrelcina*

**Saturday 24** Eccl 11:9—12:8 / Lk 9:43-45

**Sunday 25** Am 6:1,4-7 / 1 Tm 6:11-16 / Lk 16:19-31

## PARISH CALENDAR

September 18– 25

**Sunday 18—Feast of St.**

**Matthew** (observed), celebrated as a solemnity with special readings at the 11:30am and 1pm Masses.

Hospitality receptions are held in the North Conference Room

following all Masses except 7am.

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

Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar comienzan a las 11 de la mañana.

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

**Monday 19**—A Eucharistic Holy Hour is held in the Cathedral from 6 to 7pm, with confessions in English and Spanish.

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

**Tuesday 20**—El grupo de Oración se reúne a las 7 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Norte.

The Married Couples Group meets in the East Conference Room at 6:30pm.

**Wednesday 21—Feast of St. Matthew** (proper), celebrated as a solemnity with cantor and music at the 12:10pm and 5:30pm Masses.

RCIA meets in the North Conference Room at 7pm.

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

**Sunday 25**—Children's Faith Formation classes meet at 9:45am at St. Matthew's Education Center.

A bake sale for Run for Vocations is held in front of the Cathedral after Masses.

beginning after the 8:30am Mass.

Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar comienzan a las 11 de la mañana.

A Blessing of Catechists is conferred at the 11:30am Mass.

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

A Landings session is held at 1pm in the East Conference Room.



## JUBILEE OF MERCY

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time** – “Jesus sends his disciples out to all nations. ... Jesus did not provide a short list of who is, or is not, worthy of receiving his message and his presence. Instead, he always embraced life as he saw it. ... Jesus said: Go out and tell the good news to everyone. Go out and in my name embrace life as it is, and not as you think it should be. Go out to the highways and byways, go out to tell the good news fearlessly, without prejudice, without superiority, without condescension, to all those who have lost the joy of living. Go out to proclaim the merciful embrace of the Father.” (Pope Francis in Washington, D.C.)

## FAITH FORMATION

**Registration for Children’s Sunday Faith Formation 2016-2017** – You may download a registration packet for Children’s Faith Formation classes from a link on the front page of the parish website, or click [here](#).



**RCIA** – Do you know anyone who

might be interested in learning more about our Catholic Faith? The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is an ongoing process for adults who would like to explore our Catholic faith. Contact Theresa Prymuszewski at 202-587-5139 or [tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org) for more information.

**Married Couples Group** – This DVD faith-sharing discussion group continues to meet biweekly. All are welcome to attend at any time. The next session is Tuesday, **September 20** in the East Conference Room.

**Blessing of Catechists** – During the 11:30am Mass on Sunday, **September 25**, Msgr. Jameson will confer a special blessing on Children’s Faith Formation, RCIA, Married Couples and Landings catechists. Please remember these dedicated people in your prayers!

## 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](mailto: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.

## OUTREACH

**Fall Semester of Spanish as a Second Language for Adults** – The 13-week fall Semester runs from **September 13 to December 15, 2016**, with classes on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday evenings. *Priority registration is given to St. Matthew’s parishioners currently involved in a ministry or serving the Spanish-speaking community.* Students must register in person on class evenings at St. Matthew’s Education Center, 1726 N Street, NW. The cost is \$80. Contact Mariella and Gabriela at [stmattsssl@gmail.com](mailto:stmattsssl@gmail.com).

**Support Seminarians through Run for Vocations** – Support our parish Run for Vocations team by purchasing baked goods in front of the Cathedral after Masses next Sunday, **September 25** beginning after the 8:30am Mass. To make a donation or sign up to run in October’s Marine Corps Marathon/10K, email Justin Silvers at [just1justin@yahoo.com](mailto:just1justin@yahoo.com).

**Respect Life Ministry & Rosary for Life** – Join us for our monthly rosary for life on Saturday, **September 24**, after the 8am Mass. We are looking for parishioners who are interested in service opportunities and involvement with the Respect Life Ministry. Contact Justin Silvers at [stmatthewsrespectlife@yahoo.com](mailto:stmatthewsrespectlife@yahoo.com).

**A Call to Serve in the Year of Mercy** – All are invited to attend the Social Justice Committee meeting on Monday, **September 25** at 7pm in the East Conference Room. Information on service opportunities also is available at <http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/outreach>. To sign up for our e-newsletter, email [socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org) or call the rectory.

## NEWS AND NOTES



### Solemnity of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, our Patron Saint –

While the Church will celebrate St. Matthew's feast day on Wednesday, **September 21**, our Cathedral parish also celebrates its patronal feast day as a solemnity at the 11:30am and 1pm Masses today, **September 18**. Jesus' calling of Matthew to discipleship is the subject of the Gospel reading at these two Masses. This Gospel event is depicted in the mural in the west transept of the Cathedral entitled *The Calling of St. Matthew* (above).

### Hospitality on our Patronal Feast Day –

Today, Sunday, **September 18**, we'll have our usual smiling volunteers, good conversation, and snacks in the North Conference Room after all Masses except the 7am Mass, all in celebration of our parish patronal feast day. Questions? Email us at [StMattHospitality@gmail.com](mailto:StMattHospitality@gmail.com).

**Eucharistic Holy Hour** – You are invited to the Cathedral for our monthly evening of Eucharistic Adoration on Monday, **September 19** from 6 to 7pm. Deacon Nickel will deliver a Scripture reflection and Fr. Rafael will hear confessions in English and Spanish during the hour.

**Red Mass** – The 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Mass will be held at the Cathedral on Sunday, **October 2** at 10am. The John Carroll Society hosts the Red Mass for its members and guests, including many government officials with attendant security. It

is open to the public, but attendance is very high. If you normally attend the 10am Mass, you may wish to attend another Mass that weekend. **The 8:30am Mass is cancelled that day.** If you plan to attend the Red Mass, please arrive early as the fire marshal will not allow entry once the Cathedral is filled to capacity. Thank you for helping us extend the Cathedral's hospitality for this celebration.

### Interested in a Parish Pilgrimage to INDIA? –

Msgr. Jameson seeks expressions of initial interest in joining a possible 8-10 day parish pilgrimage to India in **April 2017**, to include Mumbai (modern-day Bombay), Agra, and possibly Jaipur and New Delhi. Parishioners and friends may contact Msgr. Jameson at [rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org).

**Call for Volunteers** – Enjoy telling people about St. Matthew's? Whether you have a few minutes or a few hours each month, you can help promote St. Matthew's activities to the parish community and the general public. For more information, contact Carmen Mezzera at [carmen.iezzi@gmail.com](mailto:carmen.iezzi@gmail.com).

### Ready to Serve your Community and Share the Joy? –

The Hospitality Committee is looking for a vice chair, graphics/newsletter coordinator, food/supplies coordinator, and day-of volunteers for Hospitality Sundays. Time commitments vary from one to



several hours per month. Contact Nicole Whitney at 814-397-1821 or [StMattHospitality@gmail.com](mailto:StMattHospitality@gmail.com).

### Attention Finance Professionals!

– Catholic Charities is launching a "Financial Stability Network" of volunteer financial professionals to offer *pro bono* financial education, financial coaching, and tax return preparation for low income families and individuals in the Archdiocese of Washington. Contact for volunteers: Deacon Jim Shanahan at [jim.shanahan@catholiccharitiesdc.org](mailto:jim.shanahan@catholiccharitiesdc.org).

### Room and Board for Live-In Child Care Helper –

Contact parishioner Giuliana Cane at 571-213-4255 or [giuliana\\_cane@iol.it](mailto:giuliana_cane@iol.it) if you are interested in free room and board (Foggy Bottom area) in exchange for 15-20 hours/week of help with her three-year old son (watching him, school drop-offs and pick-ups, running errands).

## MUSIC



**Next Sunday's Schola Music** – Curious

about what you will hear musically at next Sunday's 10 and 11:30am Masses? Click [here](#) or check the front page banner of the parish website.

### Schola Cantorum Tenor Openings

– A limited number of openings remain in the *Schola Cantorum* for **tenors**. Prospective singers must have significant adult choral experience, good sight-reading skills, and a pleasant, agile voice. The commitment of time and focused energy is significant, particularly at Christmas and during Holy Week. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 6:45-8:45pm. Contact Thomas Stehle, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Director of Music Ministries, at [tstehle@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:tstehle@stmatthewscathedral.org).

## LECTURAS DE HOY

**A** veces nuestro Señor dice cosas sorprendentes. Por ejemplo, cuando elogia al administrador astuto en el Evangelio de hoy no lo hace por el dudoso proceder de éste, sino por ser previsor. Ante la necesidad de buscarse otra fuente de sustento, el administrador se priva de su propia comisión para favorecer a los deudores de su patrón y así ayudarse a sí mismo, porque ellos le devolverían el favor cuando él lo necesitara.

El Señor nos recuerda que nosotros también tendremos que pasar a otra situación: de esta vida a la próxima, porque aquí no tenemos un hogar permanente. Lo que debemos hacer es usar nuestros recursos no sólo en beneficio propio, sino también de nuestro prójimo.

Bien sabemos que el trato que demos a los demás en esta vida determinará el trato que recibamos nosotros en la próxima, y los bienes materiales pueden ayudarnos a asegurarnos un buen futuro. Todos necesitamos dinero para vivir y sustentar a nuestras familias. Pero ¡cuidado! porque quien es avaro con el dinero puede incurrir en deshonestidad e injusticia. El que traslada a Dios de la bóveda celeste a la bóveda de su banco se crea un grave problema, porque el dinero pasa a ser el objetivo principal de su vida en perjuicio de su salud espiritual.

Entonces, hay tres cosas que conviene llevar en el equipaje de la vida: Una brújula, para avanzar en la dirección correcta hacia Dios y hacia los demás. Porque si en nuestra vida no están presentes ni Dios, ni los principios y valores morales, ni la preocupación por el prójimo, quiere decir que vamos a la deriva.

También una balanza, para lograr el equilibrio correcto de justicia en el trato con nuestros semejantes, es decir, ser honestos en todo. Estas dos cosas, más la generosidad, son tres elementos útiles que nos serán útiles en el viaje hacia nuestro hogar celestial.

*“Señor Jesús, quiero servirte a ti con todo mi corazón, mi alma y mi mente, y no al dinero. Abre mis ojos, para ver la realidad y corregir lo que tenga que corregir.”*

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## LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

**Domingo 18** Am 8:4-7 / 1 Tim 2:1-8 / Lc 16:1-13

*San Mateo (celebra en las misas de 11:30 de la mañana y*

*1:00 de la tarde)*

**Lunes 19** Pro 3:27-34 / Lc 8:16-18

*San Jenaro*

**Martes 20** Pro 21:1-6,10-13 / Lc 8:19-21

*San Andrés Kim Taegon y San Pablo Chong Hasang*

**Miércoles 21** Ef 4:1-7,11-13 / Mt 9:9-13

*San Mateo*

**Jueves 22** Ec 1:2-11 / Lc 9:7-9

**Viernes 23** Ec 3:1-11 / Lc 9:18-22

*San Pío de Pietrelcina*

**Sábado 24** Ec 11:9—12:8 / Lc 9:43-45

*Nuestra Señora de la Merced*

**Domingo 25** Am 6:1,4-7 / 1 Tim 6:11-16 / Lc 16:19-31

## INTENCIONES DE MISAS

### MASS INTENTIONS

September 18 - 25

#### Sunday, September 18

5:30pm Vigil (September 17) – Carmen Aranda

7am – José Sotelo

8:30am – All Parishioners

10am – John & Janet Gagat

11:30am – Pedro A. Diaz

1pm – Luzmila & Fausto Cevallos

5:30pm – Michael Brennan

#### Monday, September 19

7am – Mary M. Savinski

8am – Ellen Bautista

12:10pm – Sarah Glynn

5:30pm – Ricardo Sleiman

#### Tuesday, September 20

7am – Ednalyn Pulgar

8am – Julio Cesar Villatoro

12:10pm – Teopista Sabelino

5:30pm – Olga Castellano (living)

#### Wednesday, September 21

7am – Josephine Xuereb

8am – Timothy J. Finnegan

12:10pm – Jim Drysdale

5:30pm – George Desorcy

#### Thursday, September 22

7am – Jeanette Dompas

8am – Linda Kalona (living)

12:10pm – Pauline Mullery (living)

5:30pm – William & Janet Carey

#### Friday, September 23

7am – J. Randall MacDonald

8am – Lina Padilla (living)

12:10pm – Therese Rancourt (living)

5:30pm – Joan Curley Nicol

#### Saturday, September 24

8am – Brooksie, Betsie & Myrtle Banks

12:10pm – Joseph Trevelline

5:30pm – Harry Kettmer (living)

#### Sunday, September 25

7am – Maria Iris da Silva

8:30am – Sarah Glynn

10am – Bonnie Brennan

11:30am – All Parishioners

1pm – Felix Castellón

5:30pm – David L. Perrigo



*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.*

## NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

### ¡BIENVENIDOS!

*Visitantes de la Catedral, queremos que sepan que son bienvenidos; bien sea que hayan venido de otra parte del país, del otro lado del mundo, o de otra parroquia del área de Washington. Gracias por orar con nosotros. Gracias también por su generosidad, la cual nos ayuda a celebrar nuestras Liturgias de una forma especial y nos permite ofrecer una gran variedad de servicios a personas necesitadas en el área de Washington, DC. ¡Disfrute su visita!*

### Intenciones del Papa Francisco para

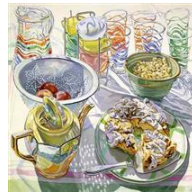
**Septiembre de 2016** – Por favor, únase en oración por las intenciones del Papa Francisco en este mes de septiembre: para que cada uno contribuya al bien común, y la edificación de una sociedad que ponga a la persona en el lugar central; y para que participando en los sacramentos y meditación de las Escrituras, los cristianos sean más conscientes de su misión para evangelizar.

**Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento** – Les invitamos el lunes **19 de septiembre** después de la misa de 5:30 de la tarde, a que se unan en adoración al Santísimo, de 6 a 7 de la tarde. El Sacramento de la confesión estará disponible en inglés y español durante esa hora.

**Grupo de Oración** – El grupo de oración se reúne los martes a la 7 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Oeste. El grupo de Oración tendrá charlas programadas a través del año. El Tema de las charlas de otoño es: **“Ser Católico Hoy.”** Estas charlas están basadas en la carta pastoral del Cardenal Wuerl. La primera charla: **Debemos vivir como cristianos y discípulos de Cristo.** *Significado de ser católico: ¿Qué valores surgen de nuestra identidad?*, será este martes **20 de septiembre**, en el salón de conferencia del Norte.

### Ministerio de Respeto a la Vida & Rosario por la Vida

– Únase a nosotros el sábado **24 de septiembre**, después de la Misa de las 8 de la mañana. Se buscan a voluntarios interesados en oportunidades de servicio y participación en el Ministerio de Respeto a la Vida, puede llamar al padre Rafael o Norma Canedo en la rectoría al 202-347-3215 o mande un mensaje a [socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org).



**Apoye a los seminaristas corriendo por las Vocaciones** – Apoye a nuestro equipo parroquial de vocaciones comprando postres, al frente de la Catedral el próximo domingo, **25 de septiembre**. Para hacer una donación o si quiere inscribirse para correr en el Maratón de la Infantería Marina/10K en octubre, mande un correo electrónico a [just1justin@yahoo.com](mailto:just1justin@yahoo.com).

**Semestre de otoño del programa de inglés como segundo idioma para adultos** – El semestre de otoño de 13 semanas se lleva a cabo del **13 de septiembre** hasta el **15 de diciembre de 2016**. Durante este periodo, se proveerán las clases los martes, miércoles y jueves de 6:30 a 8:30 de la noche. Las clases de inglés serán impartidas desde el Nivel 1 (principiante) hasta el Nivel 5 (avanzado). Los estudiantes deben matricularse en persona durante las tardes que se ofrecen las clases de 6 a 8 de la noche en el Centro de Educación, ubicado en 1726 de la Calle N, NW. El costo del semestre es \$40. Para más información, por favor visite <http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/outreach/clases-de-ingles-english-language-classes> o póngase en contacto con Molly Egilsrud a: [stmatthesl@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthesl@gmail.com).

**Una llamada a servir en el Año de la Misericordia – Ministerios de Justicia Social** – Todos están invitados a aprender más sobre las diversas oportunidades de servicio encontradas a través de los ministerios de Justicia Social y Servicio Comunitario de nuestra parroquia. Acompáñenos en nuestra próxima reunión el lunes, **26 de septiembre** a las 7 de la tarde en el Salón del Este. Para aprender más, visite la página digital de la parroquia <http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/outreach>. ¿Preguntas? ¿Interesado en recibir correos sobre oportunidades de voluntariado? Mande un correo electrónico al padre Rafael Barbieri o a Norma Canedo a: [socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org). También puede llamar a la rectoría.

**Interesado en una Peregrinación Parroquial a la INDIA?** – Monseñor Jameson busca personas que estén interesadas en una posible peregrinación parroquial a la India en **abril de 2017**. El viaje sería de unos 8-10 días, a Mumbai (el Bombay moderno de hoy día), Agra y posiblemente Jaipur y Nueva Delhi. Feligreses y amigos pueden contactar a Monseñor Jameson a [rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org).

## Liturgical Ministries

**Introduction.** With the liturgical reform of Vatican II, four functions associated with the Mass were revised to enable the members of the worshipping community to assume particular duties that enable and encourage the whole assembly of faithful to be more intensely involved in the celebration of Mass. These functions or duties we know today as “ministries.” Of particular note is the openness of these ministries to adults and young people, both male and female. Their direct participation in these ministries is a visible sign of how the whole assembly of faithful involves itself in the Eucharistic celebration.

**Lector (or Reader).** The one who proclaims the readings from Sacred Scripture during the liturgy, except for the Gospel which is reserved to the deacon or priest in the deacon's absence. Traditionally, the office of lector is a transitional point in preparation for ordination to the office of deacon. Although still an officially “instituted” ministry, the role is now generally open to the laity. Those proclaiming Scripture need to be mindful of *telling* the story, not *reading* it; to be sensitive to the nature of the reading; for example a *narrative* from Kings or Deuteronomy, an *angry outburst* from Jeremiah or a *poem* from Isaiah. Equally important is a keen sense of pacing and phrasing: waiting until the people are settled and ready, then grabbing their attention with the first words and articulating the particular pattern of the text. Finally, there is the “breath-taking” pause before announcing “The Word of the Lord” in such a way as to invite the assembly's response “Thanks be to God.”

**Acolyte.** Derived from the Greek word for ‘helper,’ this office of acolyte is a transitional point preparing for ordination as deacon and still remains an officially instituted office of the Church. Nevertheless, many of the “helper” duties of acolyte, previously performed by men and boys, have now been extended to women and girls as well. Some of the acolyte's duties such as cross-bearer, candle-bearer, book-bearer, incense-bearer and table-preparer have traditionally been performed by young boys/men, but now are open to all lay persons. Another word used for this ministry has been “server” which is more and more is a misnomer, since all ministries associated with the liturgy are in “service.”

**Communion (Extraordinary Minister of Communion).** A special term describing persons designated to assist the ordinary ministers of Communion (priest, deacon or acolyte) in sharing the consecrated bread and wine with the assembly. The term “extraordinary” is used to distinguish them from the ordinary ministers. Like other ministers to the assembly gathered for liturgy, these ministers also must be truly present in demeanor at the time they are fully sharing Christ with members of the assembly. When they announce “The body of Christ” or “The blood of Christ,” they speak not only of their own faith, but they call forth the faith of the communicant who responds “Amen.” These special ministers also go from the gathered assembly to share the communion of Christ with the absent sick or homebound.

**Hospitality (Usher or Greeter).** In earlier times, one might have heard this role referred to as ‘porter’, the one who opened the gate or door to welcome those who sought shelter, food or other aid. Today, those who fulfill this ministry set the tone for those who enter to worship. Their demeanor or attitude is an important quality for helping people to feel more a part of the worshipping community and to encourage the members to take an active role in celebrating the liturgy. Their encouragement before, during and after the liturgy is vital to the faithful's deeper experience of the Eucharist. Hospitality is an essential characteristic that should be visible in all our ministers of the liturgy, AND the assembly as well.

-- Deacon Merella

[see Ministry Interest form on reverse]

## Liturgical Ministry Interest Form

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Email (print)/phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one or more Ministry of interest:

Server \_\_\_\_\_ Communion (EMC) \_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality (Usher) \_\_\_\_\_

Check one or more Mass Time possible:

Weekend -- Sat 5:30pm\_\_\_\_; Sun 7:00am\_\_\_\_; 8:30am\_\_\_\_; 10:00am\_\_\_\_;  
11:30am\_\_\_\_; 5:30pm\_\_\_\_;

Weekday – 7:00am\_\_\_\_; 8:00am\_\_\_\_; 12:10pm\_\_\_\_; 5:30pm\_\_\_\_;

[A Stewardship Committee member will contact you about your interest – Thank you!]

**Drop off the completed form at the rectory or mail it to the rectory**

St. Matthew's Cathedral  
ATTN: Ministry Appeal  
1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036



## ***WELCOME RETURNING CATHOLICS***

*Are you someone who “used to be Catholic” or “grew up Catholic”?  
Are you a Catholic who is searching for a more spiritually fulfilling life?  
Are you thinking about becoming more active in your Catholic community?  
Would you like to participate more fully in the Catholic liturgy and sacraments?*

No matter how long you have been away for whatever reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with Christ and His Church through LANDINGS.

LANDINGS is a Paulist Ministry, run by St. Matthew’s parishioners, aimed at welcoming Catholics who want to deepen their faith and commitment.

### **LANDINGS *is*:**

- A small group of Catholics walking together toward understanding and healing.
- An open, nonjudgmental place to ask questions about Christ and the Catholic faith.
- A community where you will be respected and listened to.
- Led by fellow parishioners who have also journeyed in their Catholic faith.
- Guided by the Holy Spirit.

### **LANDINGS *is not*:**

- Pressure
- Judgment
- Condemnation

**Sundays: Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 16, Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 20**

**Pre-registration is required  
Sessions are held at  
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[swilsonsmith@paulist.org](mailto:swilsonsmith@paulist.org)  
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## The Problems of Priest Politicians, The Urgency of Lay Leadership

By Cardinal Donald Wuerl

“Why doesn’t the Church do something about this?” The woman who met me as I stood outside of church greeting people was waving a newspaper article that recounted some legislative body’s recent approval of physician-assisted suicide. This was not the first time in 50 years as a priest and 30 as a bishop that I was confronted by men and women annoyed at what they perceived was the silence of “the Church.”

What they are all really asking is, “Why don’t bishops and priests do more politically?” Why are priests and bishops not more engaged in the political issues that result in the re-defining of our culture? Today those same questions might be directed to issues of family and marriage, religious freedom and immigration, human life and poverty and more.

The short answer is the Church should do more – that is, the Church understood as all of her members, with their different responsibilities and roles. If we want a society in which public policy defends the life and dignity of all, supports marriage and family, promotes the common good, recognizes objective right and wrong and religious freedom, personally and institutionally, then of course the Church must be involved. Especially, the lay faithful must speak out and become “salt and light” in our democracy.

The idea that somehow priests or bishops should be the primary ones addressing public issues and the framing of laws, and advocating for specific public policies, is too narrow a vision of the Church which would leave out about 99% of its members. Yes, bishops and priests have a very distinct and important role. They are the teachers of the faith, they pass on revelation and received tradition, they call the baptized to live their faith every day. In fact, at the installation of every pastor, I ask him to renew his ordination promises, one of which says, “Are you resolved that in preaching the Gospel and teaching the Catholic faith you will worthily and wisely fulfill the ministry of God’s Word?”

This formulation of the renewal of priestly promises reflects Church teaching today as it has been so clearly spelled out since the time



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of the Second Vatican Council, now 50 years ago.

The Council saw the role of the laity to be the sanctification and transformation of the temporal order. In the *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, this is made explicitly clear:

The mission of the whole People of God [...] is exercised when they work at the evangelization and sanctification of men; it is exercised too when they endeavor to have the Gospel spirit permeate and improve the temporal order (2). The laity must take up the renewal of the temporal order as their own special obligation. Led by the light of the Gospel and the mind of the Church and motivated by Christian charity, they must act directly and in a definite way in the temporal sphere (7).

The clergy’s task of teaching and helping to form the consciences of the laity, as envisioned by the Council and subsequent popes, requires patience in dealing with diverse opinions, fidelity in presenting the fullness of Church teaching and perseverance in continuing to teach, to teach and to teach.

There are times when bishops and pastors have a duty to share our Catholic teaching, to point out the moral and human dimensions of public issues and call for the protection of the weak and the pursuit of the common good. But these obligations cannot substitute for the leadership of lay men and women. Pastors need to encourage, inform and assist lay women and men in their duty to bring the values of our faith into civic and public life.

The temptation might be to short circuit this process and have clergy impose specific political approaches or policies and even proclaim their preferences for candidates for public office. This practice is not new. Shortly after the Council, I recall vividly the debate over whether priests should run for political office. I thought it was a bad idea then as I still do now.

For the bishop or priest to get directly involved in partisan politics is to confuse and distort the correct understanding of the distinctive and complementary role of clergy and the role of the laity. For many of the faithful and clergy, this mixing of roles – pastor/teacher and political authority/advocate – would have the unfortunate effect of diminishing the bishops’ spiritual

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authority and moral credibility by reducing, in the perception of many, the bishop to the role of a lobbyist or partisan.

The appropriation by the bishop or priest of the lay persons' essential role also implies that our laity might not be capable, even if properly informed, of carrying out their own unique responsibilities in the area of politics and public policy. Lay men and women are called to be "leaven" in our democracy and bring their faith and experience into the public square.

The understanding of the distinctive role of the laity in the mission of the Church and in the transformation of the temporal order and its sanctification was developed further after the Second Vatican Council by Pope Saint John Paul II. In his apostolic exhortation, *Christifideles Laici*, he connected the vocation of the laity in the world to the living out of the Universal Call to Holiness spoken of in *Lumen Gentium*: "The vocation of the lay faithful to holiness implies that life according to the Spirit expresses itself in a particular way in their involvement in temporal affairs and in their participation in earthy activities..." (17). A further distinguishing feature of the laity for John Paul II is their secularity. "In this work of contributing to the human family, for which the whole Church is responsible, a particular place falls to the lay faithful, by reason of their 'secular character,' obliging them, in their proper and irreplaceable way, to work towards the Christian animation of the temporal order" (36).

Building on the work of his predecessor and the Council, Pope Benedict XVI would assert in his first encyclical that justice is both the aim and the intrinsic criterion of

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"There is much at stake in public life: questions of life and death, war and peace, religious freedom and human dignity. There is simply no substitute for informed, faithful, active and courageous lay women and men who will bring the truth of the Gospel and the wisdom of Catholic teaching into public life."

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CNS PHOTO/JOEL PAGE, REUTERS

Miriam Conners and her son Spencer of Stand for Marriage Maine canvass in Yarmouth, Maine, on Election Day in 2009.

all politics. Pope Benedict outlined a careful balance:

The Church cannot and must not take upon her self the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the State. Yet at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. She has to play her part through rational argument and she has to reawaken the spiritual energy without which justice, which always demands sacrifice, cannot prevail and prosper (*Deus Caritas Est*, 28).

This is a far cry from the days when the Church viewed herself or her leaders as a willing, secular, political authority or even military power. Yes, there are examples historically of Church leadership attempting to determine political questions – even to use the sacraments and ecclesial penalties in these efforts – in ways that did damage to both church and state.

In more recent times the Church has changed her pastoral approach. For example, Saint John XXIII lifted the excommunication imposed in Italy on some politicians and voters for choices that ran counter to the will of the Holy See.

Today it is the central role of the bishop and priest to teach the faith, share Catholic moral and social principles, and to encourage lay men and women in their primary responsibility to take these truths and values into

the economic, political and cultural world. In regard to the teaching role of the Church, Pope Francis writes in his first apostolic exhortation:

In her dialogue with the State and with society, the Church does not have solutions for every particular issue. Together with the various sectors of society, she supports those programs which best respond to the dignity of each person and the common good. In doing this, she proposes in a clear way the fundamental values of human life and convictions which can then find expression in political activity (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 241).

The document, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, issued in November 2015 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops with nearly unanimous support, speaks very clearly to the Church's primary role of forming consciences and the particular duty of the laity in the political order and in the realm of partisan politics. The bishops quote Pope Benedict:

The Church wishes to help form consciences in political life and to stimulate greater insight into the authentic requirements of justice as well as greater readiness to act accordingly, even when this might involve conflict with situations of personal interest. . . . (28).

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As Pope Benedict XVI explained, the Church seeks to inform the moral deliberation and the political participation of our members, as well as other believers or persons of good will with its public social teaching, but this is not intended to dictate outcomes in the political arena. "This is where Catholic social doctrine has its place: it has no intention of giving the Church power over the State. Even less is it an attempt to impose on those who do not share the faith ways of thinking and modes of conduct proper to faith. Its aim is simply to help purify reason and to contribute, here and now, to the acknowledgment and attainment of what is just" (*Deus Caritas Est*, 28).

Pope Francis has consistently echoed these themes of the Council and his predecessors in his own teaching. Like Pope Benedict, he has insisted on the autonomy of politics and religion. In an interview with the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica* he says:

I say that politics is the most important of the civil activities and has its own field of action, which is not that of religion. Political institutions are secular by definition and operate in independent spheres. All my predecessors have said the same thing, for many years at least, albeit with different accents. I believe that Catholics involved in politics carry the values of their religion within them, but have the mature awareness and expertise to implement them (Interview with *La Repubblica*, Oct. 1, 2013).

Pope Francis in his address to the Italian Episcopal Conference on May 18, 2015, insisted on the responsibility of the laity for the temporal order without unnecessary clerical supervision and interference: "Lay people with an authentic Christian formation, should not need a pilot bishop or a pilot monsignor or a clerical presence to take on responsibilities on all levels. From the political to the social. From the economic to the legislative."

When I reflected on that statement, my thoughts turned to my experiences years

## U.S. bishops' 'Faithful Citizenship' document

A link to the U.S. Catholic bishops' statement, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* can be found online at:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/index.cfm>



CNS PHOTO BY DAVE HRBACEK, THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT  
In a 2012 photo, Catholics Caitlin Heaney, right (holding blue sign), and her sister, Elizabeth, show their support during a rally for religious freedom in downtown Minneapolis.

ago with a parish priest who would use the designated "Pastor's Corner" of the weekly parish bulletin to officiate with his very clear partisan political views and his analysis of candidates and politicians. His justification, which his congregation found quite unpersuasive, was that he was writing simply as an American citizen, not as their pastor. But he was their pastor, using the parish's bulletin which was distributed to all who came to Mass.

Sometimes, I fear there can be a temptation to substitute sharing our political and ideological preferences for the very demanding and challenging role of teaching by word and example the principles of our faith. I believe our efforts to preach and persuade are more credible and effective than proclaiming our own political opinions. It is also the way Jesus gave us and the example of Popes, including Saint John Paul II, Benedict XVI and now Francis.

Each year in which we move toward a national election, I remind my brother priests that we are in the pulpit as proclaimers of the Gospel, not as political leaders. No one elected us as their political representative and there might be serious reason to believe they probably would not. We are there to present the Word of God. Our listeners, who come from differing political parties and have diverse ideological perspectives, have a right to hear the Gospel and the Church's teaching on faith and morals proclaimed with fidelity, consistently and courageously and not

packaged in someone's personal, partisan political views.

When we look to the U.S. Catholic Bishops' statement, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, the historic presentation of Pope Francis to our Congress, or the writing and example of his recent predecessors, we see the best ways to offer a principled, serious and challenging call to Catholics to bring their faith into public life. It is essential for laywomen and laymen to take up the responsibility of standing up and speaking out for the values of our faith.

My hope is that we might read and reflect on *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* since it provides authentic and practical guidance in the face of the complexity of moral decision making when exercising political responsibility in these challenging times. It is clear about the distinctive and complementary roles of ordained and lay members of our community of faith. As pastors, we are called to teach, teach and teach. As lay men and women, Catholics are called to be "salt, light and leaven" in our democracy.

There is much at stake in public life: questions of life and death, war and peace, religious freedom and human dignity. There is simply no substitute for informed, faithful, active and courageous lay women and men who will bring the truth of the Gospel and the wisdom of Catholic teaching into public life.