

TODAY'S READINGS

Thus says the Lord to his anointed ... opening doors before him and leaving the gates unbarred. (Isaiah 45:1)
 "A new door will open for you today." Have you ever cracked open a fortune cookie and discovered a hidden message like this one? Maybe you smiled, thinking that someone is sitting at a desk somewhere writing fortunes for a living. Then you crumpled the sliver of paper. Well, today's first reading was an actual message enfolded within the prophet's words to Cyrus, the king of Persia!

The prophet declared that God was the thrust behind Cyrus' rise to power. He depicted God as unbaring gates and opening doors for Cyrus, then going a step further and grasping the king's arm to lead him through, door after door.

This passage is a fascinating insight into history's unfolding. But there's something here for us today as well. If God opened doors for Cyrus, who didn't even believe in him, do you think he will open them for you? Yes, he will! Every day, God is opening new doors, inviting you to step through and move forward in faith. These doors come in all shapes and sizes. Some are plain to see, like a door of service that's opened when someone invites you to volunteer in your parish. Or a door of encouragement, when you can uplift someone who really needs it. To see some, though, you have to be on the lookout. Like the next time you're stuck in traffic, God could be opening a door for you to spend extra time with him in prayer. Some doors are wide open, and some require us to lighten our load in order to squeeze through, like the call to live more simply so that we can give more of our finances to God's work.

Today, try to see every challenge, every conversation, every chance encounter as a divinely appointed door. Then, see Jesus on the other side, waiting for you with open arms.

"Lord, take me by the hand today, and lead me through your open doors."

Taken from *The Word Among Us*, October 2014, Vol. 33, Number 9: Used with permission.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 19	Is 45:1,4-6 / 1 Thes 1:1-5 / Mt 22:15-21
Monday 20	Eph 2:1-10 / Lk 12:13-21
<i>St. Paul of the Cross</i>	
Tuesday 21	Eph 2:12-22 / Lk 12:35-38
Wednesday 22	Eph 3:2-12 / Lk 12:39-48
<i>St. John Paul II</i>	
Thursday 23	Eph 3:14-21 / Lk 12:49-53
<i>St. John of Capistrano</i>	
Friday 24	Eph 4:1-6 / Lk 12:54-59
<i>St. Anthony Mary Claret</i>	
Saturday 25	Eph 4:7-16 / Lk 13:1-9
Sunday 26	Ex 22:20-26 / 1 Thes 1:5-10 / Mt 22:34-40

WELCOME!

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

PARISH CALENDAR

October 19 - 26

Sunday 19—A second collection for World Missions/Propagation of the Faith is taken at all Masses.

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

The fall dinner for our homeless neighbors is held at 3pm.

Monday 20—A **Eucharistic Holy Hour** is held in the Cathedral at 6pm with Confessions available in English and Spanish.

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

Tuesday 21—The first lecture of the Fall series is given at 7pm in the North Conference Room. 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 Rm.

Thursday 23—Legión de María se reúne a las 6:30 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Este.

The Respect Life Committee meets at 6:45pm in the West Conference Room.

Saturday 25—Taller en español para Ministros Extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión a las 9:00 de la mañana en el salón de Conferencias del Norte.

A Liturgy Formation talk is given at 9:00am in the West Conference Room.

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

Cardinal Wuerl celebrates the White Mass at 11:30am.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Eucharistic Adoration – All are invited to our monthly Eucharistic Holy Hour on Monday, **October 20** from 6 to 7pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during the hour in English and Spanish. Deacon James Garcia will preside and give a short reflection on Matthew 22:34-40.

Liturgy Formation Lecture – On Saturday, **October 25**, the Liturgy Committee will sponsor a talk by Fr. Michael Witczak from 9:15 to 11:45am on the connections among liturgy, ministry, and the Christian life. Fr. Witczak, who holds a doctorate in liturgy from the Pontifical Liturgical Institute in Rome, teaches liturgy at Catholic University and has written extensively on liturgy and the sacraments. The event will be held in the West Conference Room, with refreshments served beginning at 9am, and is open to all.

White Mass – All are welcome as Cardinal Wuerl celebrates the Archdiocese of Washington's fifth annual White Mass, honoring the gifts of persons who are deaf or have disabilities and those with mental health challenges, on Sunday, **October 26** at 11:30am at the Cathedral. **Please note that the 1pm Mass may be slightly delayed.** For more information, contact the Department of Special Needs Ministries at 301-853-4560 or specialneedsministry@adw.org.

All Saints' Day (Holy Day of Obligation) and All Souls' Day – On Saturday, **November 1**, we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, a Holy Day of Obligation, with **Cardinal Wuerl** celebrating the 12:10pm Mass. On All Souls' Day, Sunday, **November 2**, **Cardinal Gerhard Muller**, Prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, will celebrate the 11:30am Mass.

Concert of Remembrance – All are welcome to our All Souls' Day concert by the Schola Cantorum on Sunday, **November 2** at 7:30 pm, featuring versions of Psalm 130 set by composers from the Renaissance through contemporary classical settings. You are invited to have a deceased loved one remembered at this concert and included by name in the concert program. Please see the parish website for more information.

Blessing of Engaged Couples – On Sunday, **November 16**, Msgr. Jameson and other St. Matthew's clergy will confer a blessing of engaged

couples at the 11:30am Mass. All engaged couples are invited to receive the blessing. After the homily, the couples will be invited into the sanctuary for the blessing, and will return to their seats afterward. Couples who plan to attend are asked to send an email to Reply@stmatthewscathedral.org.

NEWS AND NOTES

Run for Vocations Team – Please keep St. Matthew's RFV team in your prayers as they prepare to participate in next weekend's Marine Corps Marathon!

World Priest Day – Worldwide Marriage Encounter, concurrently with Serra Club's Priesthood Sunday, honors our priests on World Priest Day, next Sunday, **October 26**. Please take the opportunity to thank and affirm your priests who live out their call to serve as Jesus does, in self-giving love for all.

November Remembrance – Next month we remember our deceased loved ones in a special way. In the pews are envelopes on which you may write the names of deceased relatives and friends. These can be given with a donation to the Sacristan or placed in the collection basket. Your loved ones will be remembered at Mass each day of the month. The envelopes will be placed on the altar in the Wedding Chapel.

FAITH IN ACTION

“Every child who, rather than being born, is condemned unjustly to being aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord, who even before he was born, and then just after birth, experienced the world's rejection.” –Pope Francis

Rosary Procession for Life – This month's rosary procession to the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic will take place on Saturday, **October 25**, after the 8am Mass. To participate, please gather inside the Cathedral at the center doors. For more information on service opportunities and involvement with the Respect Life Ministry, contact Justin Silvers at stmatthewsrespectlife@yahoo.com.

Lunchmakers Needed – Our Homeless Ministry needs volunteers to provide bagged lunches for the guests of our Monday morning program. Each volunteer prepares 15 bagged lunches and delivers them to the Cathedral on Sunday, or on Monday morning, to be distributed as a take-way meal. To help monthly, every other month, or as a one-time service, please contact Thomas Lynch at tlynch@ironpointpartners.com.

FAITH FORMATION

Children's Religious Education – Sunday Children's Faith Formation (Religious Education) meets this weekend, on Sunday, **October 19**, from 9:45 to 11am. Welcome back!

Breaking Open the Word, An Informal Scripture Discussion – Next Sunday we will hear in the second reading, "And you became imitators of us and of the Lord." (1 Ths. 1:6) Join us Wednesday, **October 22** at 7pm in the West Conference Room to share how this and the other readings for next Sunday lead and inspire us to live in Christ-like ways. Copies of the readings will be provided. Contact: Nathan at ntkrieg@gmail.com.

Book Club – Join St. Matthew's Book Club on Thursday, **October 30** in the West Conference Room, 6:45 to 8pm, to discuss the national bestseller, *Desire of the Everlasting Hills: The World Before and After Jesus*, by Thomas Cahill. This unique background on the life of Jesus has been described as Cahill's "most compelling historical narrative yet." The well-known author has been described as a "marvelous storyteller who makes Jesus and those who wrote about him very much alive."

Interested in Becoming Catholic? – "The RCIA, which stands for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a process through which non-baptized men and women enter the Catholic Church. It includes several stages marked by study, prayer and rites at Mass. Participants in the RCIA are known as catechumens. They undergo a process of conversion as they study the Gospel, profess faith in Jesus and the Catholic Church, and receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Holy Eucharist. The RCIA process follows the ancient practice of the Church and was restored by the Second Vatican Council as the normal way adults prepare for baptism. In 1974 the Rite for Christian Initiation for Adults was formally approved for use in the United States" (www.usccb.org). The RCIA also is for adults baptized in other Christian traditions who wish to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist in the Catholic Church and for adults who were baptized in the Catholic Church and wish to complete their initiation. To inquire about the RCIA process, please contact Theresa Prymuszewski at 202-587-5139 or tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org.

Grow in Your Faith! Be an RCIA Sponsor! – Are you looking for a way to grow in your faith? Consider being an RCIA sponsor, and share your faith with someone who is discerning full initiation in the Catholic Church. A sponsor is a companion, a representative of the faith

community who models how to live the faith in daily life, meets with the person s/he is sponsoring to discuss their faith journeys, prays for that person, and participates in the stages and rituals of the RCIA process. Fifteen men and women (pictured at right with some sponsors and RCIA team members) are



going forward in the RCIA process, and sponsors are still needed. To learn more, please contact Theresa Prymuszewski at 202-587-5139 or tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org.

YOUNG ADULTS

Wine and Wisdom – Monthly on the third Monday (next: **October 20**) – 7 to 8:30pm – East Conference Room – Wine and Wisdom is a discussion and faith-sharing group aimed at preparing young adult women to be the women that God intended. Join them for conversation that will strengthen and encourage you on your journey! RSVP to Tiffany at wineandwisdom.stmatthews@gmail.com.

C+YA for Supper - Thursday, October 23 – 7pm – Scion Restaurant (2100 P Street NW / Dupont Circle) – All young adults, friends, and fellow foodies are welcome to join us for one of our monthly suppers! This month we will dine at the neighborhood favorite, Scion. RSVP at <http://goo.gl/5fdBQk> by Monday, October 20. Contact: Erin at ecurran7@gmail.com

C+YA for Volunteering at Holy Family – Saturday, October 25 – 10am to 1pm Holy Family Parish (2200 Calloway Street, Hillcrest Heights, MD) – We need volunteers to help make improvements to the grounds of Holy Family Parish, where Fr. Regan is pastor. Join us for a fun morning of outside work—no landscaping skills required! RSVP to Carolyn at carolyncwait.10@gmail.com, and please let her know if you can drive others from the Cathedral.

Annual Young Adult Mass with Cardinal Wuerl - Sunday, October 26 – 3pm – St. Matthew's Cathedral – Young Adults (college-aged through 30s) across the Archdiocese are invited to our Young Adult Mass with Cardinal Wuerl and an after-party at Buffalo Billiards (3 blocks away) with a FREE concert with Marie Miller! (Valid 21+ ID required). Register at DCCatholic.eventbrite.com.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Hoy se celebra la Jornada Mundial de las Misiones. Con este motivo, el Santo Padre Francisco expresó lo siguiente durante la celebración de Pentecostés en 2014:

“Hoy en día todavía hay mucha gente que no conoce a Jesucristo. La Jornada Mundial de las Misiones es... una celebración de gracia y de alegría. De gracia, porque el Espíritu Santo, mandado por el Padre, ofrece sabiduría y fortaleza a aquellos que son dóciles a su acción. De alegría, porque Jesucristo, Hijo del Padre, enviado para evangelizar al mundo, sostiene y acompaña nuestra obra misionera.

“La humanidad tiene una gran necesidad de aprovechar la salvación que nos ha traído Cristo. Los discípulos son los que se dejan aferrar cada vez más por el amor de Jesús y marcar por el fuego de la pasión por el Reino de Dios, para ser portadores de la alegría del Evangelio. Todos los discípulos del Señor están llamados a cultivar la alegría de la evangelización. Los obispos, como principales responsables del anuncio, tienen la tarea de promover la unidad de la Iglesia local en el compromiso misionero, teniendo en cuenta que la alegría de comunicar a Jesucristo se expresa tanto en la preocupación de anunciarlo en los lugares más distantes, como en una salida constante hacia las periferias del propio territorio, donde hay más personas pobres que esperan.

“La alegría del Evangelio nace del encuentro con Cristo y del compartir con los pobres. Por tanto, animo a las comunidades parroquiales, asociaciones y grupos a vivir una vida fraterna intensa, basada en el amor a Jesús y atenta a las necesidades de los más desfavorecidos. Hace tiempo que se ha tomado conciencia de la identidad y de la misión de los fieles laicos en la Iglesia, así como del papel cada vez más importante que ellos están llamados a desempeñar en la difusión del Evangelio.”

“Señor Jesucristo, infunde en todos tus fieles un espíritu de evangelización y apostolado para llevar tu mensaje de salvación a todos los confines del mundo.”

Escogida con el permiso de *La Palabra Entre Nosotros*, Vol. 33, Número 9: octubre 2014.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo 19	Is 45:1,4-6 / 1 Tes 1:1-5 / Mt 22:15-21
Lunes 20 <i>San Pablo de la Cruz</i>	Ef 2:1-10 / Lc 12:13-21
Martes 21	Ef 2:12-22 / Lc 12:35-38
Miércoles 22 <i>San Juan Pablo II</i>	Ef 3:2-12 / Lc 12:39-48
Jueves 23 <i>San Juan de Capistrano</i>	Ef 3:14-21 / Lc 12:49-53
Viernes 24 <i>San Antonio María Claret</i>	Ef 4:1-6 / Lc 12:54-59
Sábado 25	Ef 4:7-16 / Lc 13:1-9
Domingo 26	Éx 22:20-26 / 1 Tes 1:5-10 / Mt 22:34-40

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento – Les invitamos el **lunes 20 de octubre** 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 Reconciliación estará disponible durante la hora de la adoración inglés y español.

Formación de 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 de la tarde. Estos temas empiezan después del rosario a las 7:30 de la tarde. El tema para el **21 de octubre** será: La Comunidad Humana: La persona y la sociedad. William Pineda será el invitado especial.



Procesión del Rosario por la Vida – *“Cada niño no nacido, pero condenado injustamente a ser abortado, tiene el rostro de Jesucristo,*

tiene el rostro del Señor, que antes aún de nacer, y después recién nacido, experimentó el rechazo del mundo”. –Papa Francisco

La procesión mensual del rosario a la clínica de aborto, Planned Parenthood, será el **sábado 25 de octubre**, después de la misa de las 8 de la mañana. Para participar, por favor encuétranos en la entrada central dentro de la catedral. Para más información sobre 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.

Taller en español para Ministros Extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión – La Catedral de San Mateo está ofreciendo un taller para Ministros Extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión el **sábado 25 de octubre** de 9:00 de la mañana a 12:00 del mediodía. El entrenamiento se ofrece a quienes quieren ser certificados por la Arquidiócesis de Washington, pero está abierto a todos. Costo: \$5 pagado en la entrada. Por favor regístrese a liturgy@adw.org o llame por teléfono al 301-853-5334. Si tiene preguntas adicionales llame a la Oficina de Culto al 301-853-4594.

MÁS NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

Próximo Domingo – Por favor tengan presente que el próximo domingo **26 de octubre** puede que la misa de 1 de la tarde esté un poco atrasada, debido a la misa especial de las 11:30 de la mañana, que celebrará el Cardenal para las personas con necesidades especiales (o discapacitadas).

Día Mundial del Sacerdocio – El **26 de Octubre** se celebra el Día Mundial del Sacerdocio, patrocinado por la organización, Encuentro Matrimonial en unión con el Club Serra, Este es un día para las familias celebrar y honrar a sus sacerdotes y una oportunidad para los feligreses el agradecer, confirmar y compartir su cariño y apoyo a todos nuestros sacerdotes. Para más información, vaya a la página web: www.priestsunday.org.

Día de Todos los Santos (día de precepto) y Día de Todas las Almas – El sábado, **1 de noviembre**, celebramos la solemnidad de Todos los Santos, un día santo de obligación, el **Cardenal Wuerl** celebrará la misa de 12:10 del mediodía. En el día de Todas las Almas, el domingo, **2 de noviembre**, **Cardenal Gerhard Muller**, Prefecto de la Congregación para la Doctrina de la Fe, celebrará la misa de 11:30 de la mañana

Tradicionalmente los católicos, recordamos a nuestros seres difuntos de una forma especial en el mes de noviembre. Cada día durante el mes de noviembre se ofrecerá una misa especial por todos los difuntos. Sobres especiales para poner los nombres de sus seres queridos para que sean recordados en nuestra misa especial de cada día durante el mes de noviembre, los encontrará en los bancos de la Catedral. Estos sobres se pondrán en el altar de la Capilla Nupcial

Se Necesitan Voluntarios para Preparar Almuerzos para el Ministerio de Personas Sin Hogar – Se buscan voluntarios para el Ministerio de las Personas Sin Hogar que puedan proveer almuerzos para nuestros invitados que vienen cada lunes para desayuno, una bolsa de almuerzo, una reflexión sobre el Evangelio y otros servicios. Cada voluntario prepara 15 bolsas de almuerzo en su hogar y los trae a la Catedral el domingo o lunes por la mañana para que sean distribuidos a nuestros invitados para que puedan comerlo más tarde en el día. Si pueden proveer almuerzos cada mes, cada dos meses o solo una vez, por favor mande un mensaje a Thomas Lynch al tlynch@ironpointpartners.com o llame a la rectoría.

Se Necesitan Patrocinadores para el Programa Navideño de Adopte-una-Familia – La Catedral se está preparando para nuestro programa navideño de Adopte-Una-Familia. El año pasado pudimos proveer regalos para 56 familias de la comunidad, también se pudo ayudar a 80 invitados de nuestro Ministerio para las Personas Sin Hogar y se recogieron regalos para miembros de los hogares de la Comunidad de L'Arche, lo cual sirve a adultos con discapacidades intelectuales. Con su ayuda podremos repetir el éxito del año pasado. Si su compañía, grupo de amigos o familia están interesados en "adoptar" a una familia en necesidad, por favor póngase en contacto con el padre Rafael o Norma Canedo al 202-347-3215 o también puede mandar un mensaje a socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org.



Visit our
**Eucharistic Lord
in the tabernacle
in the Blessed
Sacrament
Chapel.**

MASS INTENTIONS

October 19 – 26

Sunday, October 19

5:30pm (October 18 vigil) – Movement of Schoenstatt (living)
7am – Annmarie Spence (living)
8:30am – Raymond W. Carpenter
10am – All Parishioners
11:30am – Steven Pulman
1pm – Carolina Urribarri
5:30pm – Leo A. Lapuz

Monday, October 20

12:10pm – Vincent Lafronza
5:30pm – Lilia Moises

Tuesday, October 21

7am – Thanksgiving
12:10pm – Siti Sundari Subagyo
5:30pm – Esther Ortega

Wednesday, October 22

12:10pm – Dr. Frank Bucci
5:30pm – William & Janet Carey

Thursday, October 23

8am – Clara Iregui Hubbard
12:10pm – Dario Rianzares
5:30pm – Teresa Romero (living)

Friday, October 24

8am – Mai Le (living)
12:10pm – Rodney Garcia
5:30pm – Thomas Lawrence Anderson, III

Saturday, October 25

12:10pm – JoJo Reyes
5:30pm – Amanda Spence (living)

Sunday, October 26

7am – All Parishioners
8:30am – Rosa Borjas de Urribarri
10am – David M. Barrett
11:30am – Margaret & Paul Kemp (living)
1pm – Alicia Montes de Oca
5:30pm – Fajun He

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.



Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle

PATRON SAINT OF CIVIL SERVANTS

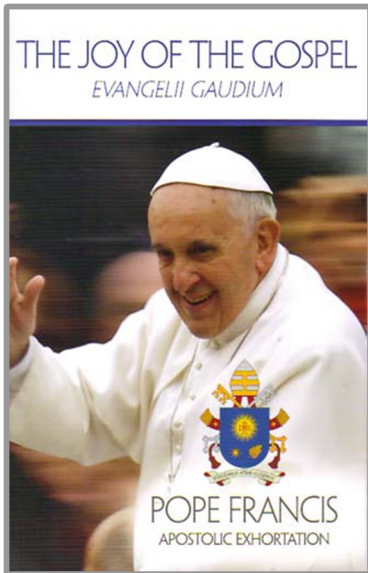
Fall Lecture Series *Evangelii Gaudium* *The Joy of the Gospel*

The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness, and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation, Pope Francis encourages us to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church’s journey in years to come.

JOIN US FOR OUR THREE–WEEK FALL LECTURE SERIES

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL: LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES IN TODAY’S WORLD

SAVE THESE TUESDAYS!



Tuesday, OCTOBER 21

The Global Vision of *Evangelii Gaudium*: Cultural Diversity as a Road to Peace

Rev. Drew Christiansen, S.J. (Society of Jesus, Jesuit)

Tuesday, OCTOBER 28

How Can We Be Evangelizers in the Church and Care for the Poor?

Rev. Frank De Siano, C.S.P. (Community of St. Paul)

Tuesday, NOVEMBER 4

How Can We Enliven our Own Missionary Zeal as individuals and as a Parish?

Very Rev. James J. Greenfield, O.S.F.S. (Oblates of St. Francis de Sales)

All lectures will be given at 7PM in the North Conference Room.

Lectures are free and open to the public. Join us for any or all. No RSVP necessary. Questions? Email Tricia Schmitt at Tricia.schmittdc@gmail.com, or contact Theresa Prymuszewski at 202-587-5139 or tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW

Washington DC 20036

www.stmatthewscathedral.org

Parking: Limited metered street parking or public garage next to Cathedral (\$5 flat fee after 4pm)

BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION



Time: 10:30 to 11:45am

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

Dates: Saturdays, November 1, 8, 15 and 22

Place: East Conference Room

Presenter: Father Jack Hurley

November 1	Introduction and Seven Letters
November 8	Seven Seals and Seven Trumpets
November 15	The Dragon, The Beasts, and the Lamb
November 22	Judgment and Victory

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*

A decorative border of red poinsettias with green leaves surrounds the text.

St. Matthew's Cathedral Social Justice & Community Services Ministry Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program 2014

Program Overview

For over 11 years, St. Matthew's Cathedral has sponsored the Adopt-A-Family Program, which seeks to purchase everyday essential items for low-income families in our community at Christmas time. Last year the program served **56 families** — 226 individuals, along with over 80 men and women from our **Homeless Ministry**. We were also able to contribute gifts to members of the local **L'Arche community**, which serves adults with intellectual disabilities. The gifts given to these individuals addressed fundamental needs such as clothes, personal items, bedding, a few small sized furniture items, and household items, as well as toys for the children.

This program is successful through the support of our neighboring business community and the help of many volunteers. Last year, fifteen groups sponsored families, in addition to the parish's support.

Opportunities for Support

There are multiple ways for your business, firm, organization, family or group of friends can participate in this program, depending on your desired level of giving. The following are some options that are flexible to fit your group:

- **Adopt more than one family:** This option is appropriate for large organizations with many willing and generous participants. A few years ago, a graduate school and a company with over 100 employees selected this option. The group will receive specific "wish lists" for each family and be responsible for purchasing items for all family members.
- **Adopt one family:** A group representative will receive a specific "wish list" of items from the family, along with ages of family members. You will then be responsible for purchasing items for all family members.
- **Adopt a child (or a few children):** A group representative will receive the "wish lists" of either one or a few children within a family, and will purchase their gifts.
- **Contribute to the program:** Your group can either collect money from employees or make a financial contribution to the program. The contribution will be used directly to purchase gifts for a family.

Timeline

You will receive a profile on the family and their "wish lists" in November. You are asked to drop-off wrapped and labeled gifts by the first week of December. More details will be provided to you once they are scheduled.

**Please contact those listed below by November 7th or sooner.
If more time is needed please indicate this as well.**

The Director of Social Justice, Fr. Rafael Barbieri or Norma Canedo the Social Concerns Facilitator can be reached at the parish rectory at (202) 347-3215 or by email at socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org.

**On behalf of the many families served through the Adopt-a-Family Program,
we thank you for your generosity!**

The Office of Deacon in Today's Church

Historically, the office of deacon in the life of the church began in the earliest years of the Christian community, beginning with Stephen and Lawrence. Over the centuries, the deacon's role expanded or diminished as the church changed to meet new and different conditions. The most recent change occurred as a result of the Second Vatican Council, when the Council bishops called for expanding the office to reinstate married men to this historic ministry that has existed since the earliest days of the Church.

Consequently, we have diaconal categories: 1) deacons to be ordained as priests are known as “**transitional deacons**,” 2) those being ordained to remain only deacons and are usually identified as “**permanent deacons**.” While permanent deacons exist in many countries, the largest number are in the United States, over 18,000 according to data compiled by the US Bishops' Conference. This number of permanent deacons compares to the 27,000 diocesan priests serving in US dioceses. The US deacons are about 50% of the total number of permanent deacons worldwide.

Of the 178 US arch/dioceses, at least 133 reported having permanent deacons. Chicago has the largest number (745) followed by Galveston/Houston, Los Angeles and Philadelphia, each having more than 300. Washington was one of the first US dioceses to establish a diaconate program. Of the US total, 25% are age 50-59; 42% are age 60-69; 25% are 70 or more. 2000 or so deacons are officially retired according to church policy, although many continue in active ministry.

Although not generally required, at least 60% of the permanent deacons have a college degree and 25% have a graduate degree. Of those with a graduate degree, 20% majored in theology, religious education or canon law.

In most cases, these deacons minister voluntarily, that is unpaid. But, some 15% are paid for the parish or diocesan position they hold, such as parish DREs, diocesan office heads, and hospital or prison ministers. In some cases, deacons are assigned as parish administrators (substitute pastors as it were) in some 3500+ US parishes because of the lack of priests to fulfill that role.

Like those studying and formed for the priesthood, deacons also are required to complete a four/five year education and formation program, according to Vatican guidelines. In the Washington archdiocese, the diaconate program is five (5) years long, leading to ordination and then a parish and ministerial assignment. Currently, our archdiocese has 203 deacons of whom 147 are active and 56 are retired according to archdiocesan policy after reaching age 75. But, some retired deacons continue to minister voluntarily.

Our cathedral parish is currently served by 5 permanent deacons (Deacons Bart Merella, Boyd Work, Clayton Nickel, James Garcia, and also Juan Cayrampoma who serves our Hispanic parishioners). Deacon Merella officially retired in 2010, but remains active in cathedral ministry; Deacon Work officially retired last month.

Deacon Merella



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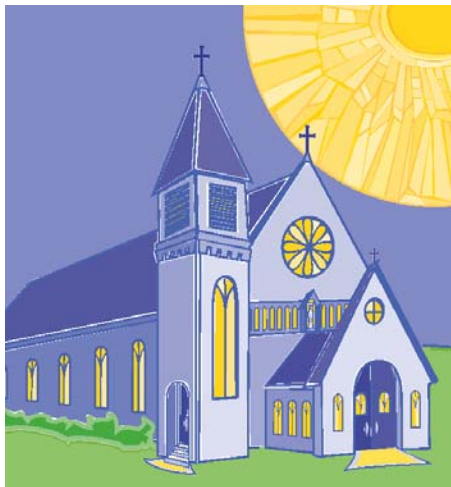
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"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." (Peter 4:10)

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*(Note: The total amount will be determined by the number of
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Organ Completion Fund: Weekly Gift: \$ _____ Monthly Gift: \$ _____ One-Time: Gift \$ _____

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	\$ _____	March	<input type="checkbox"/> All Saints Day	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Churches in the Developing World	\$ _____	March	<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 (In addition to regular Sunday gift)	\$ _____	March/April	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Flowers	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Relief Services	\$ _____	May	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas	\$ _____	December

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