

TODAY'S READINGS

Be watchful! Be Alert! (Mark 13:33)
 And so Advent begins with the call to be alert. There's one group of people, however, who don't need any reminding: children! They watch television ads intently, search the internet eagerly, and pore over catalogues endlessly, looking for just the right gifts to ask for. We adults would do well to imitate their sense of wonder and enthusiasm.

Yes, Jesus urges us to be alert, but for what? For God to "rend the heavens and come down" (Isiah 63:19). He wants us to be look for ways that he can remove batteries between him and us.

Consider how God answered when the Israelites asked him to open heaven. He didn't just rend the heavens; he stepped through, gathered us in his arms, and invited us to join him for all eternity. Such astounding, abundant generosity!

You know how to give gifts to the people you love. How much more should you expect from God the Father? He loves you completely. He delights in you. He enjoys giving you good things. So go ahead, and ask him for something this Advent.

Maybe you need more patience or more self-control around holiday food and drink. Ask him! Maybe you'd like to feel his presence more concretely or hear him speak to your heart clearly. Expect it! Then be alert for it as you pray.

Don't limit Jesus only to the small gifts. Open wide the doors of your heart, and let him give joy, peace, gentleness, vision, courage. He may not answered exactly as you expect, but that's okay. Let his creativity surprise you. You can be sure that he will give you only good gifts, even if you can't recognize them right away. Just believe that when you ask, you will receive and when you seek you will find.

"Father, I can't wait to see what you do this Advent! Rend the heavens, Lord, and come down to visit us!"

Taken from *The Word Among Us*, Advent 2014, Vol. 34, Number 1: Used with permission.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 30 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	Is 63:16b-17,19b; 64:2-7 / 1 Cor 1:3-9 / Mk 13:33-37
Monday 1	Is 2:1-5 / Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday 2	Is 11:1-10 / Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday 3 <i>St. Francis Xavier</i>	Is 25:6-10 / Mt 15:29-37
Thursday 4 <i>St. John of Damascene</i>	Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21,24-27
Friday 5	Is 29:17-24 / Mt 9:27-31
Saturday 6 <i>St. Nicholas</i>	Is 30:19-21,23-26 / Mt 9:35-10:1,5,6-8
Sunday 7 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	Is 40:1-5,9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mk 1:1-8

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

November 30 - December 7

Sunday 30—First Sunday of Advent

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

Monday 1—A prayer vigil for Word Aids Day is held after the 5:30pm Mass, followed by refreshments in the North Conference Room.

The Parish Council meets at 6:45pm in the East Conference Room.

Tuesday 2—El grupo de Oración se reúne a las 7 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Oeste.

Wednesday 3—Breaking Open the Word meets at 7pm in the West Conference Room.

Thursday 4—Legión de María se reúne a las 6:30 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Este.

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

Saturday 6—An Advent Morning of Recollection is held at 9am in the North Conference Room.

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

Sunday 7—Second Sunday of Advent

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

Hospitality receptions are held in the North Conference Room following all Masses except the 7am Mass, with gifts from the Holy Land available for purchase.

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

NEWS AND NOTES

Find the Perfect Gift – This Sunday as we celebrate the 1st Sunday of Advent we also begin the *Find the Perfect Gift* initiative with parishes across the Archdiocese of Washington to encourage each of us, and those who are not currently practicing their faith to celebrate the joy of Jesus, our Perfect Gift this Christmas. This week please take a moment to visit www.FindthePerfectGift.org and explore opportunities to donate time and resources to those in need!

Baptisms at the Cathedral – St. Matthew’s welcomes into the Church our newest members who were baptized at the Cathedral in October: Dax Reese Saltman ♦ Ruby Anne Shatrowsky ♦ Louis Joseph Roche ♦ Hector Tomas Herrera ♦ Calvin Fredick Morrison.

Weddings at the Cathedral – Join us in offering our prayers for and best wishes to these couples who were married at the Cathedral in October: Edward Duignan and Brittany Burgess ♦ Andre Gregorian and Katherine Domanski ♦ Eric Peter and Melissa Sullivan.



Friends of the Cathedral Christmas Mailing

– Mark your calendars for this event – a fun evening of refreshments and envelope stuffing for our annual fundraising mailing to donors across the country. We will gather in the North Conference Room on Thursday, **December 4** at 6pm. If you can give an hour or two to support this critical appeal, please contact us at 202-587-5143 or Reply@stmatthewscathedral.org.

Hospitality Sunday – Can you sign a card for an elderly person in need? Do you have Christmas gifts to buy? Are you interested in meeting fellow parishioners? If you said “yes!” to any or all of these, join us on **December 7** for hospitality after the **8:30, 10:00, 11:30am, 1:00pm or 5:30pm Masses** in the North Conference Room. In addition to our usual offerings of snacks, beverages and smiling faces, we will have **gifts for sale from the Holy Land after all Masses**. Get a head start on your Christmas shopping with these unique, meaningful items! We’re also looking for people to sign a few cards for our sick and homebound friends at Thomas House—an opportunity to help spread some holiday cheer to those in need. All are welcome—we hope to see you there! Interested in helping us with future events? Contact stmattshospitality@gmail.com.

Stewardship Thought for the Week – “Although it would be a mistake to think that stewardship by itself includes the whole of Christian life, in probing the Christian meaning of stewardship one confronts an astonishing fact: God wishes human beings to be his collaborators in the work of creation, redemption, and sanctification; and such collaboration

involves stewardship in its most profound sense. We exercise such stewardship, furthermore, not merely by our own power but by the power of the Spirit of truth, whom Jesus promises to his followers.” (cf. Jn 14:16-17). (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*; USCCB November 2002; page 25)

LITURGIES AND DEVOTIONS

First Friday and First Saturday – First Friday Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on **December 5** following the 12:10pm Mass until 5pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, to the left of the sanctuary. All are welcome to come and adore Our Lord. On Saturday, **December 6** all are welcome to First Saturday Devotions after the 12:10pm Mass, followed by Hospitality in the West Conference Room.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Monday, **December 8** is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be at 7, 8, 11am, 12:10, 5:30pm and 7pm (Spanish). Join us for this feast that is so fittingly celebrated during Advent.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – St. Matthew’s will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (which falls on December 12) on Sunday, **December 14** at the 1pm Spanish Mass, followed by refreshments and music in the West Conference Room. All are welcome.



November 2
Ministry
Fair at
Hospitality
Sunday.



FAITH FORMATION

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 who models how to live the faith in daily life, meets with the person s/he is sponsoring to discuss their faith journey, prays for that person, and participates in the stages and rituals of the RCIA process. To learn more, contact Theresa Prymuszewski, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, at tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org or 202-587-5139.



Advent Morning of Recollection – “The O Antiphons” – Did you know that there is a “code” embedded within a familiar Advent hymn? Come discover a deeper meaning of the Lord’s coming during this early Advent Morning of Reflection. Join us in the North Conference Room on Saturday, **December 6** from 9am to

Noon for this spiritual preparation. You may be surprised when we crack the code together. All are invited to stay for the 12:10 Mass. Please contact Theresa Prymuszewski (contact info above) for more information.

Adult Confirmation Preparation 2015 – 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 five Thursday evenings (**April 16, 23, 30, May 7 and 14**) and one Saturday (**May 16**). Registration forms are available from Theresa Prymuszewski (contact info above).

The Catholic Business Network of Washington D.C. (CBN-D.C.) – CBN-D.C. will host an evening networking reception, Thursday, **December 4**, 5:30-7:30pm in the Great Hall of St. Matthew’s Rectory. Come as CBN-D.C. celebrates its first year by awarding over \$50,000 to DC Catholic schools. CBN-D.C. is an independent nonprofit organization bringing together businesses and individual professionals to create valuable networking opportunities through monthly receptions and an annual gala. For more information or to register, please visit www.cbndc.org or contact Justin Silvers at 202-957-5188 or jsilvers@cbndc.org.

YOUNG ADULTS

C†YA for a Discussion: *Who Is God?* – First Thursday of the month (next: December 4) – 7pm – Uptown Tap House – Join us as we seek fresh answers to the most fundamental question: Who is God? Each month, C†YA for Discussion explores one aspect of God through questions. On the first Thursday of the month, we meet at a restaurant for a free-flowing discussion over drinks. This month we also will collect donations for our contribution to the Cathedral’s Adopt-a-Family drive. Contact: Mike m.owens81@gmail.com

C†YA at the Catholic Charities Youth Transitional Program – Saturday, December 6 – 10am to 12:30pm – 801 East Men’s Shelter (2700 MLK Blvd. SE / Anacostia) – Join us at this rehab program for young men ages 18-24, for a rewarding morning of fun activities and facilitated interaction designed to help the guys develop valuable social and professional skills. Come once or as often as you’re able! Contact: Carolyn at cawait.10@gmail.com. Click [here](#) to register with Catholic Charities. Take the Metro and/or buses to the Shelter, or if you would like a ride or can drive others, please fill out our carpool form [here](#). Carpools will leave from the Cathedral at 9:30am.

C†YA for Hospitality – Sunday December 7 – 6:30pm (immediately following the 5:30 Mass) – North Conference Room – Please join us for food and fellowship after mass as we meet with fellow parishioners, snack on seasonal goodies, and wrap the gifts bought for the Cathedral’s Adopt-a-Family drive.

FAITH IN ACTION

Adopt-a-Family Christmas Drive – We are very grateful to all who are participating in our Christmas Drive this year. If you have taken a gift tag, please be sure to bring your new, wrapped, and labeled gift to St. Matthew’s by Sunday, **December 7**. To drop off your gift on a weekday, it must be no later than Tuesday, December 9. If you have any questions about the Christmas drive or are no longer able to purchase your gift, please contact Pam Quinn at pquinn505@aol.com. You may also call Fr. Rafael or Norma Canedo at the rectory at 202-347-3215. Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need!



Speaking of Christmas, check next Sunday’s bulletin for an invitation to help decorate the Cathedral a couple of days before Christmas!

LECTURAS DE HOY

Velen y estén preparados. (Marcos 13, 33)
Esta sencilla exhortación basta para que uno ponga atención. Hay tantas cosas que atender que siempre hay que estar pendiente de algo. Pero en el Adviento, que comienza hoy, hemos de mantenernos despiertos para “ver” a Cristo Jesús y recibir los regalos que él nos traiga.

Porque, así como nosotros damos regalos a nuestros familiares y amigos, el Señor quiere darnos regalos en el Adviento, pero debemos esperarlos con fe y entusiasmo. Por eso, proponemos hacer algunas actividades para mantenerse despiertos mientras esperamos al Señor. Por ejemplo, ofrézcase de voluntario para servir en un comedor de caridad o lleve a su familia a un hogar de ancianos para cantar villancicos; cuando lo haga, observe las sonrisas de gratitud de quienes reciben su servicio y vea en ellas el rostro de Cristo. Luego, descubrirá que regresa a casa con una bendición de Dios para toda la familia.

También, lea en oración las lecturas de la Misa diaria y esté dispuesto a entender algo nuevo de la vida espiritual, especialmente cómo poner por obra la Palabra de Dios en su vida cotidiana.

El Adviento suele ser una época en la que se vive muy de prisa, porque hay mucho que hacer: fiestas navideñas, compras de regalos, reuniones familiares, etc. Pídale al Señor que le conceda paz y alegría mientras realiza sus compras y ponga atención para oír cuando el Señor le recuerde cuál es la verdadera razón de las celebraciones. Y al recibir la Sagrada Eucaristía en Misa, perciba que Jesús está a su lado, lo acompaña al volver a casa y le concede nuevas fuerzas y capacidades en la semana.

Cristo habita en su corazón y este es el regalo más extraordinario que usted ha recibido en la vida. Manténgase atento en este Adviento y vea cómo Jesús lo llena cada vez más de su propia vida.

“Ven a mi corazón, Señor Jesús, en este Adviento. Enséñame a compartir con los demás los regalos que tú me das, para que ellos también te conozcan personalmente.”

Escogida con el permiso de *La Palabra Entre Nosotros*, Vol. 34, Número 1: Adviento 2014.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo 30	Is 63:16b-17,19b; 64:2b-7 / 1 Cor 1:3-9 / <i>Primer Domingo de Adviento</i>
	Mc 13:33-37
Lunes 1	Is 2:1-5 / Mt 8:5-11
Martes 2	Is 11:1-10 / Lc 10:21-24
Miércoles 3	Is 25:6-10 / Mt 15:29-37
	<i>San Francisco Javier</i>
Jueves 4	Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21,24-27
	<i>San Juan de Damasceno</i>
Viernes 5	Is 29:17-24 / Mt 9:27-31
Sábado 6	Is 30:19-21.23-26 / Mt 9:35-10:6-8
	<i>San Nicolás</i>
Domingo 7	Is 40:1-5.9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mc 1:1-8
	<i>Segundo Domingo de Adviento</i>

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

Regalo Perfecto – Este domingo, además de celebrar el Primer Domingo de Adviento, también comenzamos: *Encuentra el Regalo Perfecto*, una iniciativa con las parroquias de toda la Arquidiócesis de Washington para que nos estimule y también a aquellos que no están practicando su fe, para celebrar la alegría de Jesús, nuestro Regalo Perfecto, esta Navidad. ¡Esta semana les pido que visiten el sitio www.RegaloPerfecto.org y exploren oportunidades de donar tiempo y recursos para los necesitados!

Primer Viernes y Primer Sábado – Primer viernes, Exposición y Adoración del Santísimo Sacramento se celebrará después de la misa 12:10 del mediodía hasta 5:00 de la tarde este viernes **5 de diciembre** en la Capilla del Santísimo Sacramento, situada a la izquierda del santuario. El sábado **6 de diciembre** todos son bienvenidos a participar en las devociones del primer sábado después de la misa de 12:10 mediodía, seguida de hospitalidad en el salón de conferencia del Oeste.

Adopte-una-Familia Coleta Navideña – Estamos muy agradecidos con todos los que están participando en la Colecta Navideña de este año. Si usted ha recogido una etiqueta de regalo, por favor no se olvide traer su regalo nuevo, envuelto en papel de regalo y con su etiqueta a San Mateo el domingo, **7 de diciembre**. Para entregar su regalo durante la semana, a más tardar el martes, 9 de diciembre. Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre la colecta Navideña o si no puede comprar su regalo, por favor llame a la rectoría y pregunte por el padre Rafael o Norma Canedo al número 202-347-3215. ¡Muchas gracias por su generosidad en ayudar a los necesitados!

Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción – El lunes **8 de diciembre** es la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción, día de precepto. Las Misas se celebrarán a las 7:00, 8:00, 11:00 de la mañana, 12:10 del mediodía, 5:30 de la tarde y 7:00 de la noche en español.

MASS INTENTIONS**November 30 – December 7****Sunday, November 30**

5:30pm (November 29 vigil) – All

Parishioners

7am – All Souls

8:30am – Consolacion Baluyot

10am – Francisco & Guillermina Campo

11:30am – Timothy Sweeney

1pm – Gabriela Sotelo

5:30pm – Peter Genovese

Monday, December 1

7am – Bertha Desorcy

8am – Ellen B. Bautista

12:10pm – Gianna Therese Macedonia

5:30pm – Roslyn Gizzi

Tuesday, December 2

7am – David Penn

8am – Lisa Tylor

12:10pm – Soderberg Family (living)

5:30pm – Margaret Prymuszewski

(living)

Wednesday, December 3

7am – Brooksie, Myrtle, Bessie Banks

8am – Clarisabel Billini

12:10pm – Moises Lopez

5:30pm – Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 4

7am – Jean Corduri

8am – Rosy Andoveca (living)

12:10pm – Vincenta Jayme Matzen

5:30pm – John LeConche

Friday, December 5

7am – Richard F. Long

8am – Margaret Curwen

12:10pm – Teddy Benedicto

5:30pm – Gustavo Vollmer

Saturday, December 6

8am – Carolina Salbaran

12:10pm – David Patrick Mora (living)

5:30pm – All Parishioners

Sunday, December 7

7am – Birdie Doherty (living)

8:30am – Mrs. Eileen Sonk (living)

10am – Walter & Mary

Orzechowski

11:30am – Mary Vasquez Mata

1pm – Francisco De León

5:30pm – Br. Paul Bednapczyk (living)

Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de**Guadalupe** – Venga y únase a

nosotros a la celebración de

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

aquí en la Catedral en la misa

de español a la 1 de la tarde el

domingo **14 de diciembre.**

Después de la misa habrá

refrescos y música en el salón

de conferencias del Oeste.

¡Todos están invitados!

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 a particular priest 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 baptism@stmatthewscathedral.org or 202-347-3215 x555. Parents are encouraged to contact us **at least six (6) months in advance** of a desired baptismal date, and may request a particular priest 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 Rectory at 202-347-3215 to ask about obtaining a letter.

MUSIC

St. Matthew's Festival Singers Auditions – Each year, we invite experienced singers of the parish to join the Schola Cantorum for our *Advent Lessons and Carols* and *Christmas Eve Choral Prelude and Mass*. Singers must be able to attend all rehearsals but are not obligated to sing at both events. We are looking for singers with an ability to read music, a pleasant voice, previous choral experience, and a commitment to work diligently and cooperatively. The rehearsal schedule includes most Mondays and Wednesdays beginning December 1.

Advent Lessons and Carols:Mondays, **December 1 & 8,**

6:45-8:45pm: Rehearsal

Wednesdays, **December 3 &****10,** 7:45-8:45pm: RehearsalSunday, **December 14,** 7:30-

9pm: Lessons and Carols

(6:30pm arrival)

Christmas Eve Prelude &**Mass:**Monday, **December 15,** 7:15-

8:45pm: Rehearsal

Wednesday, **December 17,**

7:15-8:45pm: Rehearsal

Monday, **December 21,** 6:45-

8:45pm: Rehearsal

Wednesday, **December 24:**

9:15pm Prelude; 10pm Mass

(8pm arrival)

To schedule an audition or for

more information, contact Tom

Stehle, Pastoral Associate and

Director of Music Ministries, at

202-587-5141 or

tstehle@stmatthewscathedral.org.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil *Vigilia de Oración para el Día Mundial del SIDA*

“I am the light of the World” Jn 8:12

“Yo soy la luz del mundo” Jn 8:12

In solidarity with those affected by HIV/AIDS
En solidaridad con los afectados por el VIH/SIDA

Monday, December 1, 2014

6:00 – 6:30pm

On the steps of the Cathedral

Lunes, 1 de diciembre de 2014

6:00 - 6:30 de la tarde

En las gradas de la Catedral

Join us for a bilingual service of reflection
with readings and prayers

*Únase con nosotros para el servicio bilingüe de reflexión
con lecturas y oraciones*

Refreshments will follow in the
North Conference Room

*Se servirán refrescos después de la
Vigilia en el Salón del Norte*

For more information | *Para más información*

St. Matthew's Respect Life Ministry | *Ministerio del Respeto a la Vida*

Justin Silvers, stmatthewsrespectlife@yahoo.com

Rectory Office: Fr. Rafael Barbieri or Norma Canedo at 202-347-3215



Saint Matthew's Cathedral

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Including

The Great "O" Antiphons in Latin Chant and the music
of Mendelssohn, Praetorius, Biebl and Victoria



Followed by a Christmas Carol Sing-along in the Great Hall

Sunday, December 14, 2014
7:30pm

Join us for our annual, much-anticipated evening of splendid
choral music, hymns and songs and inspiring readings
presented by the *Schola Cantorum* and
Saint Matthew's Festival Singers and the Cathedral Lectors.

1725 Rhode Island Ave, NW Washington DC

Free and open to the public. Donations will be gladly accepted.





Looking for a convenient way to support our parish offertory?

Faith Direct is the innovative solution that allows you to support our parish using electronic funds transfer from either a credit card or bank account. It is a hassle-free, simple solution for today's busy families.

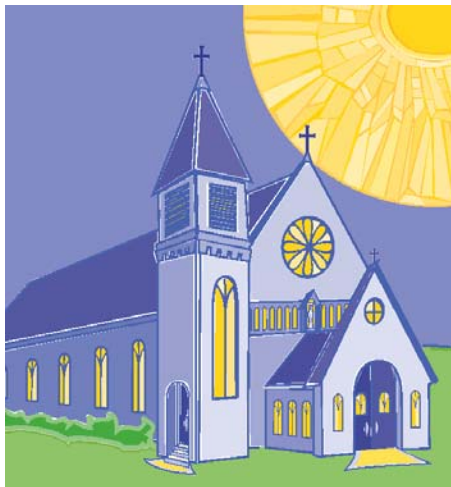
Sign up using the enrollment form on the other side or go online to www.faithdirect.net and use our parish code **DC284** to enroll today!

ENROLL TODAY!

How does Faith Direct work?

Faith Direct is a secure system that works directly with your bank or credit card—much the same as other direct payments you may have set up for utility bills or mortgage payments.

When do transactions take place?



Transactions take place once per month on the 4th or the next business day. The total amount of your gifts for that current month (both offertory & second/special collections) will be debited in one monthly total. The Cathedral will receive the funds 4 business days later.

Can I stop, increase, or decrease my payment at any time?

Yes, by calling *Faith Direct* at 1-866-507-8757 (toll free) by emailing info@faithdirect.net, or by logging in to your account through www.faithdirect.net.

How does the Cathedral benefit from my participation with Faith Direct?

The Cathedral will see a substantial increase in net revenue, a decrease in administrative costs, and a clearer picture of cash flow for their needs.

If you have any questions about the *Faith Direct* program, please call 1-866-507-8757 {toll free} or send an email to info@faithdirect.net, or contact Pam Erwin at the Rectory at 202-347-3215 x537 or perwin@stmatthewscathedral.org.

E-GIVING ENROLLMENT FORM



Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle
1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

To enroll online, use code
below or scan here: →

DC284



C

Faith Direct • Attention: Enrollment • P.O. Box 7101 • Merrifield, VA 22116-7101 • 1-866-507-8757 {toll free} • www.faithdirect.net

Process my gifts on the: 4th *or* 15th of the month (please check only one box)

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

Weekly Offertory Gift: \$ _____

(Note: The total amount will be determined by the number of
Sundays in the month. Some months have 5 Sundays.)

You may also choose to give to the following second and special collections as part of the regular monthly transaction.

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

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

I would like to enroll in the Faith Direct program for the benefit of the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle. I understand that my total monthly contribution amount will be transferred directly from my checking account or credit card as stated above, a record of my gifts will appear on my bank or credit card statement, and my transfers will begin on the 4th or next business day of the month following my enrollment. I understand that I can increase, decrease, or suspend my giving by contacting Faith Direct toll free at 1-866-507-8757.

{All gifts provided to your Church originating as Automated Clearing House transactions comply with US law.}

Signature: X _____ Date: _____

Name(s): (please print) _____

Street Address: _____ Church Envelope #: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Name as I/we would like it to appear on Offertory Cards: _____

I do not wish to receive Offertory Cards to place in the collection basket as a sign of my electronic giving.

If you choose to enroll by mail, you can contact Faith Direct at 1-866-507-8757 {toll-free} to set up online access to your account.

For Bank Account Debit: Please return this completed form and a voided check to Faith Direct Enrollment.

For Credit/Debit Card: Please complete the following... VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

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If you have any questions about the Faith Direct program, please contact us at 1-866-507-8757 {toll free} or info@faithdirect.net.

Experiences of Marriage and Family

Pope Francis noted this in a recent homily: “Families are the first place in which we are formed as persons and, at the same time, the ‘bricks’ for the building up of society.”

The Extraordinary Synod of Bishops just concluded its first session concerning issues affecting marriage and the family. Much public comment has been made about what the synod bishops have been discussing. *America*, a Catholic magazine published by the Jesuits, recently included a special section containing a series of seven personal reflections about the beauty and messiness of marriage and family. *America* has given us permission to reprint these reflections in our parish bulletin. This is the fifth of those personal reflections.

■ Deacon Merella

Are All Welcome?

By Valerie Schultz

My daughter grew up in a town where a gay teenager hanged himself from a tree in his own yard. If you are gay, what can you do but leave a town like that? So, upon reaching college age, my daughter left. Unfortunately, she felt the same inevitability about leaving the church.

I am the Catholic mother of a lesbian daughter. This does not make me unique. I have met plenty of Catholic parents of gay children, both at church and at Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meetings. We are here. I also have three heterosexual daughters, who defend their lesbian sister against all slights. “If my sister isn’t good enough for you,” their motto goes, “neither am I.” Naturally, this affects their Catholicism.

The church would do well to invest in training for the catechists and youth ministers who work with teens at the parish level. I did not suspect that my daughter was a lesbian until she came out to me, home from her freshman year of college. I knew that she was a deep and quiet young woman, a bit of an old soul, but she had dated boys and was quite feminine in appearance. I regret that I had never perceived her sexual orientation. My unconscious expectations clouded my perception of her. For just this reason, training in conscious sensitivity for those who minister to young people is essential.

Whether a catechist knows it or agrees with it or not, the fact is that some of his or her students are gay. They may be silently struggling. My daughter later related things that well-meaning Catholics had said and taught that wounded her in her adolescence. She believed that God must

[see reverse]

have made a mistake when creating her, that she was destined only for hell. One catechist told my daughter's class the story of how he had become Catholic rather than Episcopalian because of the "gay thing." My daughter heard the parishioners singing "all are welcome in this place," but she knew in her heart that some did not mean people like her. She still says that she did not leave the church; the church rejected her.

My own faith has been battered these past 11 years, in the storm of accepting my daughter's civil marriage and loving my daughter-in-law. I have become a back-of-the-church Catholic, having withdrawn, with gentle prodding, from active ministry. I used to be a lector, a catechist, a eucharistic minister. I used to conduct Communion services at the prison. I used to have a Catholic husband. Now I have a mixed marriage; my husband has become Episcopalian, in part because of the "gay thing." But I stay.

I stay because I am Catholic. I stay because I have been abundantly blessed by priests, religious and lay people who have ministered to me with love, which is something that the "micro" church gets right, despite some of the "macro" pronouncements from on high. A point I cannot emphasize enough and the synod must remember: the individual shepherds who actually smell like their sheep, as Pope Francis puts it, and who care for us where we are, are truly the saving grace of the church.

Valerie Schultz is a frequent contributor to America.