

TODAY'S READINGS

He will prepare your way. (Mark 1:2)
Clearly, John the Baptist was a mighty man of God. He was an ambassador called to prepare the way of the Lord by pointing the people to Jesus.

How did John fulfill his calling? By his witness and by his words. His witness was that of a detached, ascetic man who dressed in rough clothes and lived in the wilderness. And backing up his witness were his words—words that cut people to the heart and moved them to examine their lives. Because of John's witness and his words, people from all over Judea came to see him. And once they saw and heard, many repented of their sins and turned back to God (Mark 1:5).

We often think of John the Baptist as a fire-and-brimstone kind of person. And he was to some degree. But fire and brimstone without love and mercy don't do justice to the message of Christ. John was also humble and compassionate. He was concerned for the people around him, so much so that he attracted disciples who committed themselves to following him and learning from him.

Like John, we all have a part to play in God's plan. We are called to be Jesus' messengers and to bear heavenly fruit by the witness of our lives and by the words we speak. So as Christmas draws near, let's set our hearts on preparing the way for Jesus. As John called the people of his day, let's repent and go to Confession. Let's also tell our families that we need to go to Confession and get right with the Lord—not in a threatening or self-righteous way but as loving ambassadors of God who care about our families.

Peter's letter tells us that Jesus will come again. It says that he will usher in "new heavens and a new earth" (2 Peter 3:13). It will be glorious. Until he comes, let's try our best to be Christ's ambassadors, through "holiness and devotion" (3:11).

"Lord, help me to be like John, a living, loving ambassador for your kingdom."

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

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 7 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	Is 40:1-5,9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mk 1:1-8
Monday 8th <i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception</i>	Gn 3:9-15,20 / Eph 1:3-6,11-12 / Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday 9 <i>St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin</i>	Is 40:1-11 / Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday 10	Is 40:25-31 / Mt 11:28-30
Thursday 11 <i>St. Damasus I</i>	Is 41:13-20 / Mt 11:11-15
Friday 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	Zec 2:14-17 / Lk 1:26-38
Saturday 13 <i>St. Lucy</i>	Sir 48:1-4,9-11 / Mt 17:9-13
Sunday 14 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	Is 61:1-2,10-11 / 1 Thes 5:16-24 / Jn 1:6-8,19-28

LITURGIES AND DEVOTIONS

Come Home For Christmas



Advent Communal Penance Service

Tuesday
December 16
12:10pm

More than 15 priests from around the Archdiocese will be available for confessions in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German, French, Kiswahili and American Sign

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 7am, 8am, 11am, 12:10pm, 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.

Eucharistic Adoration – All are invited to our monthly Eucharistic Holy Hour on Monday, **December 15** from 6 to 7pm. Deacon Nickel will preside and give a short reflection. Fr. Barbieri will be available for confessions in English and Spanish during the hour.

Advent Confessions – During the third week of Advent, on **December 15 – 19** (except **December 16**) and the fourth week of Advent, on **December 22 – 24**, two priests will be available in the Cathedral from 11am to Noon to hear confessions. Note also our Advent Penance Service (see above) at 12:10pm on Tuesday, **December 16** (no confessions at 11am that day).

PARISH CALENDAR

December 7 - 14

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.

Padre Rafael escuchara confesiones después de la misa de 1 de la tarde.

The Young Adults' Advent Afternoon Reflection is held at 3:30pm in the Cathedral.

Monday 8—Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses are at 7am, 8am, 11am, 12:10pm, 5:30pm and 7pm (in Spanish).

The Liturgy Committee meets at 6:45pm in the East Conference Room.

Tuesday 9—The Faith Formation Committee meets at 6:30pm in the East Conference Room.

El grupo de Oración tendrá como invitado especial al padre José Raúl Deleón, quién nos hablará de la Navidad, en el salón de conferencias del Oeste.

Wednesday 10—Breaking Open the Word meets at 7pm in the West Conference Room.

Thursday 11—Legión de María **no se reúne** hoy.

Saturday 13—Retiro de Adviento a las 9:30 de la mañana en el salón de conferencias del Norte.

Sunday 14—Third Sunday of Advent

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

Celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe durante la misa de español y refrescos después, en el salón de conferencias del Oeste.

Always God's Children meets in the **East Conference Room** at 3:30pm.

Lessons and Carols is presented in the Cathedral at 7:30pm, followed by a sing-along in the Great Hall.

NEWS AND NOTES

Find the Perfect Gift – Jesus is the Perfect Gift. Through prayer, videos, social media, daily reflections and yard signs, the Archdiocese of Washington is inviting all people to *Find the Perfect Gift* in a relationship with Jesus. This week, take time out of the busyness of the season to slow down and reflect. Find opportunities for daily reflection for adults and children at FindthePerfectGift.org. **Take home a Find the Perfect Gift yard sign, available inside the Cathedral main entrance.**

Always God's Children – New Location This Month – Always God's Children, the Cathedral parish's ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics and their families and friends, will meet on Sunday, **December 14** at 3:30pm in the **East Conference Room**.

MEMORIES WANTED – Help Celebrate the 175th Anniversary of St. Matthew's Parish!

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

Maybe you have a story of how your Catholic education has made a difference to your future. Maybe there is a moment when you drew closer to your faith because of your involvement with the Cathedral. Maybe you have a story about how you saw the face of God in others through your volunteer efforts, or how Catholic Charities or a Cathedral program or ministry offered you help, hope, or the chance to serve others when you needed it. Share your favorite memories of parish festivals, volunteering, liturgies, social justice events, Christmas Masses and Easter mornings. **The anniversary celebration of our parish is best marked by the inspirations, gratitude, joy, and power of faith.** Your stories and those of your ancestors reflect how St. Matthew's Parish and the Church have shared the joy of the Gospel in downtown Washington, DC for 175 years.

Stories will be selected for posting on the parish website weekly throughout the anniversary year. All stories submitted will be added to the Cathedral Archives. Please submit stories, in **250 words or less**, by email to reply@stmatthewscathedral.org, or mail them to Msgr. Jameson, Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, 1725 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036-3001. Please include the words "Anniversary Story" in the email heading or on the envelope.

FAITH FORMATION

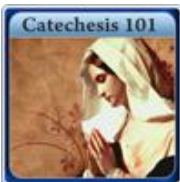
Fr. Hurley's multi-year series of Bible studies concluded last month with a look at the Book of Revelation. What's next from our good Father? Stay tuned.



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 202-587-5139 or tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org.

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 four Thursday evenings (**April 23, 30, May 7 and 14**) and one Saturday Retreat (**May 16**). Registration forms are available through Theresa Prymuszewski (contact info above).

Living Catholic and Faith Foundations – Would you like to know more about the faith we profess in a God who loves you beyond all telling? Have you ever felt at a loss to describe the mysteries of our faith? *Living Catholic* and *Faith Foundations* adult formation courses in the Archdiocese of Washington, provide you with an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Jesus and his Church. Please consider signing up for this upcoming course, to be taught by Theresa Prymuszewski in the North Conference Room:



Catechesis 101: "The catechist knows that the content of catechesis cannot be indifferently subjected to any method. It requires a process of transmission which is adequate to the nature of the message, to its sources and language, to the concrete circumstances of ecclesial communities as well as to the particular circumstances of the faithful to whom catechesis is addressed" (GDC, 149).

This course is both instructional and formational in nature and presents theological, relational and practical approaches to catechetical formation for all ministers of catechesis: Catechists for adults, Young adults, Teens, Sunday Faith Formation Catechists, also a great orientation for our Lenten Small Group Leaders, Formation Committee Members, RCIA Team and others. You may take this course leading to become a Certified Catechist in the Archdiocese of Washington, DC. We need a minimum of twelve registrants for this course, which will meet Saturdays, **January 10, 24, and 31** from 10 am to Noon, and 1 to 3pm each Saturday. For more information, please contact Theresa Prymuszewski (contact info above). The cost is \$29, which covers materials, with checks payable to the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle.

FAITH IN ACTION

Reminder for Adopt-a-Family Christmas Drive – We are very grateful to all who are participating in our Christmas Drive. If you have taken a gift tag, please bring your new, wrapped, and labeled gift to St. Matthew's this weekend, or to the rectory by Tuesday, **December 9**. If you have questions or are no longer able to purchase a gift, please contact Pam Quinn at pquinn505@aol.com, or call Fr. Rafael or Norma Canedo at the rectory office at 202-347-3215. Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need!

Basilica Christmas Dinner for Those in Need – The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is offering free meals to hundreds of poor, homeless, elderly and needy people in the DC area on Christmas Day. If you or someone you know cannot go out and would like a Christmas dinner delivered to their home, contact Norma Canedo by Thursday, **December 11** at ncanedo@stmatthewscathedral.org or 202-347-3215. The Shrine also needs volunteers. Volunteer at www.nationalshrine.com/christmasdinner.

Christmas Offering – During Advent, we reflect upon the many blessings of the Lord, including those graces experienced at St. Matthew's. It is your generous response that enables the building up the Kingdom of God in our parish and our community. We invite you to mail your Christmas offering to the rectory, drop it in the offertory, or donate at www.stmatthewscathedral.org. (Choose *Make a Gift* on the front page, then choose



Donate under *Make a One-Time Gift*. After providing your address and credit card information, click *Review Donation* and *Continue*. Choose

Comments and in the window type "Christmas."). You also may give via Faith Direct. We truly appreciate your generosity and pray that this Christmas brings many blessings to you and your loved ones

LECTURAS DE HOY

El pueblo hebreo pasó 40 años peregrinando por el desierto mientras aprendía a confiar en Dios. Luego, Jesús pasó un período en el desierto, orando, ayunando y preparándose para su ministerio público.

Pero ¿qué es el desierto? Es, en realidad, nuestra antigua vida de pecado y separación de Dios; es esa parte de uno que quiere permanecer rebelde e indomable, sin entregarse a Dios.

La buena noticia que nos estamos preparando para celebrar en la Navidad es que no hay que esperar a haber vencido o dominado las tendencias de la naturaleza humana antes de aproximarse a Cristo. De hecho, es al revés. Tenemos que dejar que Jesús entre primero al desierto personal del corazón humano, y él lo irá transformando gradualmente.

Así como San Juan Bautista invitaba a la gente al desierto a recibir su Bautismo, Jesús nos invita al desierto de nuestra propia vida y, al adentrarnos en aquellos lugares oscuros e inhóspitos, seguramente nos sorprenderemos de encontrar a Jesús allí mismo, esperándonos. Él está en aquellos sitios en los que nos sentimos más estériles y poco atractivos, y nos ofrece su curación y restauración. Cristo está allí, listo para quitar las malezas y convertir la arena ardiente en un exuberante jardín y llenar el páramo con todo tipo de frutos dulces y jugosos.

Jesús ya nos perdonó, ya pagó el precio por nuestros pecados; todo lo que necesitamos ahora es correr hacia él avanzando por el tortuoso sendero, para pedirle perdón y sanación. Él enderezará y allanará el camino. Aprovechemos el Sacramento de la Reconciliación, para experimentar el perdón de una manera positiva y concreta. Has de saber que cuando confieses tus pecados y recibas la seguridad del perdón de Dios, experimentarás el reconfortante abrazo de Jesús y podrás empezar una vida nueva de paz y pureza.

“Gracias, Jesús mío, por estar dispuesto a entrar en mi desierto y limpiarlo; gracias por todo tu amor y tu misericordia. Ayúdame a estar más consciente de mis faltas, para que te las presente y reciba tu perdón. Amén.”

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo 7	Is 40:1-5.9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mc 1:1-8
<i>Segundo Domingo de Adviento</i>	
Lunes 8	Ge 3:9-15.20 / Ef 1: 3-6.11-12 / Lc 1:26-38
<i>Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción</i>	
Martes 9	Is 40:1-11 / Mt 18:12-14
<i>San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin</i>	
Miércoles 10	Is 40:25-31 / Mt 11:28-30
Jueves 11	Is 41:13-20 / Mt 11:11-15
<i>San Dámaso</i>	
Viernes 12	Za 2:14-17 / Lc 1:26-38
<i>Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe</i>	
Sábado 13	Ec 48:1-4.9-11 / Mt 17:10-13
<i>Santa Lucia</i>	
Domingo 14	Is 61:1-2.10-11 / 1 Tes 5:16-24 / Jn 1:6-8.19-28
<i>Tercer Domingo de Adviento</i>	

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

Regalo Perfecto – Jesucristo es el Regalo Perfecto. A través de oraciones, videos, medios sociales, reflexiones diarias y carteles para patios y jardines, la Arquidiócesis de Washington invita a todos a *Encontrar el Regalo Perfecto* en una relación con Jesús. Esta semana, saquen tiempo del ajeteo de las fiestas para bajar el ritmo y reflexionar. En www.RegaloPerfecto.org encontrarán oportunidades para la reflexión diaria, enfocadas tanto a adultos como a niños. **En la entrada principal encontrará carteles para patios y jardines del Regalo Perfecto, pueden llevarlos a casa.**

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

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.

Retiro de Adviento – Todos están invitados el **sábado 13 de diciembre**, al Retiro de Adviento que se ofrecerá en el salón del Oeste a las 9 de la mañana hasta las 4 de la tarde.

Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe – 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!

MÁS NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA



Celebración del Día de Gracias Grupo de Oración.

Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento – Les invitamos el lunes **15 de diciembre** 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.

Ofrendas Florales – Cada año se hacen todos los esfuerzos posibles para decorar la Catedral para la Navidad de una manera que refleje verdaderamente la noble sencillez de esta época. Para hacerlo de nuevo, necesitamos de su apoyo generoso. Usted puede mandar su ofrenda de flores a la rectoría, ponerla en la cesta de la colecta, o donar en la página digital de la Catedral o a través de *Fe en Directo*. Sabemos que en esta época, hay muchas solicitudes, por eso, realmente apreciamos cualquier donación.

Ofrenda de Navidad – Durante el Adviento, tenemos la oportunidad de reflexionar sobre las muchas bendiciones del Señor, en particular los dones que se experimentan en San Mateo. Dependemos de su generosidad, la cual nos permite construir el Reino de Dios en nuestra parroquia y en nuestra comunidad. Los invitamos a que manden su donación de Navidad a la rectoría, ponerla en la cesta de la colecta, o donar vía www.stmatthewscathedral.org. También puede dar a través de *Fe en Directo*. Agradecemos sinceramente su generosidad y pido a Dios que esta Navidad traiga muchas bendiciones a usted y toda su familia.

Christmas Decorating & Christmas Flowers – On Tuesday evening, **December 23**, after the 5:30pm Mass, we will decorate the Cathedral for Christmas. We need volunteers to unwrap, prepare and place poinsettias, put lights on the trees, and assemble the crèche. To volunteer, contact Pam Erwin at 202-347-3215 x537 or

perwin@stmatthewscathedral.org. Can't be with us on the 23rd but would like to help? You may mail your Christmas flower offering to the rectory, drop it in the offertory, or donate online or via Faith Direct. Many requests are made this time of you, so please be assured of our gratitude for all gifts.



YOUNG ADULTS

DCCatholic Fall Theology on Tap: "Things to Know by 30" – Tuesday, December 9 – 6 to 8pm – Buffalo Billiards (1330 19th Street NW / Dupont Circle) Contact: dccatholic@adw.org

C†YA for Supper: Save the Date! – Thursday, December 11 – 7pm – Due to the holiday seasons, we will combine our November and December supper clubs—more information will be available soon! Contact Mark at 06korovae@cardinalmail.cua.edu with questions or to RSVP.

MASS INTENTIONS

December 7 – 14

Sunday, December 7

5:30pm (December 6 vigil) – All Parishioners
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)

Monday, December 8

7am – Brooksie, Myrtle, Bessie Banks
8am – Clara Van Hissenhoven
11am – Rose Showfety
12:10pm – Mrs. Nhung Thi Nguyen
5:30pm – Gwynedd Armstrong
7pm – Hilario Cundin

Tuesday, December 9

7am – Stephen Burns
8am – Lilly Fitzgibbons (living)
12:10pm – Mr. Lito Gorospe
5:30pm – Bridget Therese Mora (living)

Wednesday, December 10

7am – Debbie Giamonco (living)
8am – Ryan Morrissey
12:10pm – Charles Matzen
5:30pm – David Green

Thursday, December 11

7am – Laura Foster (living)
8am – Rhonda Twombly
12:10pm – Thanksgiving
5:30pm – Benedito Santos

Friday, December 12

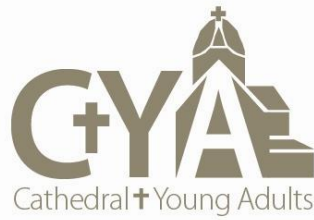
7am – Jimmy Dunworth
8am – Sabrina Burke (living)
12:10pm – W. Frank Armstrong
5:30pm – St. Anthony

Saturday, December 13

8am – Bishop Olivier
12:10pm – Kurt & Gloria Packard (living)
5:30pm – Adelina Alves

Sunday, December 14

7am – All Parishioners
8:30am – Corrie Vergel de Dios (living)
10am – Pope Francis (living)
11:30am – Ramon D. Mendoza
1pm – Acción de Gracias
5:30pm – Lilliam Mahshie



Advent Afternoon of Reflection

Sunday, December 7, 2014

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle

(We will begin in the Mary Chapel on the left)



Join the Cathedral Young Adults for an afternoon for a guided Advent meditation, personal reflection, rosary and opportunity for confession. We will end in time for all to attend the 5:30 pm Mass.

For further information please contact:
Tiffany Waits at tiffanyawaits@yahoo.com



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.



Vuelve a Casa Para Navidad

Servicio Comunitario de la Penitencia de Adviento

Martes 16 de diciembre, 12:10 del mediodía



Les invitamos a que experimenten el amor de Jesucristo a través del sacramento de la Reconciliación en nuestro Servicio Comunitario de la Penitencia de Adviento.

Experimente el poder del sacramento, que nos devuelve a la gracia de Dios y nos une en una amistad íntima con Él.

Únete a los feligreses y amigos a reconocer nuestra necesidad de perdón del pecado y de la reconciliación con Dios en la preparación para la venida de nuestro Señor Jesucristo en la Navidad. Sacerdotes de la Arquidiócesis estarán disponibles para las confesiones en distintos idiomas: inglés, español, portugués e intérprete para sordos.

Preguntas
Llame a la Rectoría al 202-347-3215
CATEDRAL DE SAN MATEO APOSTOL
1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
www.stmatthewscathedral.org



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.

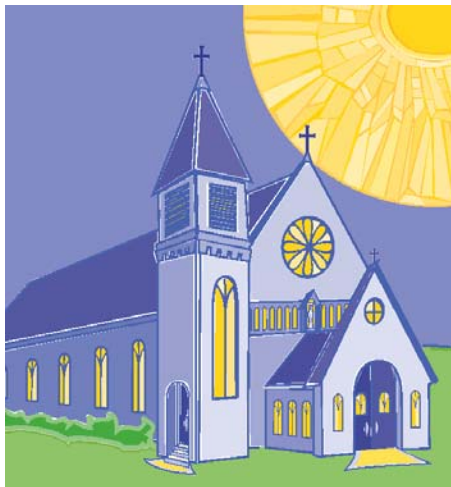
Sign up using the enrollment form on the other side or go online to www.faithdirect.net and use our parish code **DC284** to enroll today!

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

Credit/Debit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

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

Worship and Hospitality

For many years, we have sponsored a monthly Hospitality Sunday, encouraging the people who celebrated the Eucharistic liturgy (the Mass) to join later in the North Conference Room and meet others for coffee, “goodies” and conversation. While many attended this opportunity to greet others at the liturgy, most people did not realize that this gathering was an extension of the hospitality that already existed in the Eucharistic liturgy.

When Vatican II reformed the liturgy, it also incorporated important changes in the way the liturgy was celebrated that highlighted the principle of hospitality as an important aspect of worship. Once the bishops changed the normative language from “attend” to “participate,” they also re-instated the historical sense of hospitality as the instrument for encouraging participation in the liturgy. We no longer are isolated individuals praying silently to God, but rather people coming together as a “community” to give praise and thanksgiving to God. We do this as the body of Christ, with all that implies.

Once terms like participation, body, assembly and community become principles guiding our celebration of liturgy, then the correlative principle of hospitality becomes a more important aspect of enabling our coming **together** for worship. As a matter of fact, Vatican II just expanded and confirmed the theology of hospitality that had already been fostered in earlier church history. It was not some new theology, but one founded throughout the texts of Sacred Scripture, both Hebrew and Christian.

We tend to think of hospitality, at least where “church” is concerned, as something that occurs, more or less, when one enters the church. One might expect to be “greeted” or “welcomed” at the door by someone in the community, a person in past days typically called an “usher.” While a useful term then, “usher” no longer connotes real hospitality nor does it convey the notion of encouraging full participation in a worshipping community. Moreover, offering hospitality should not be limited to someone specifically identified for this purpose. If we are a community, and in particular a Christian community, then each of us are obliged to extend hospitality, to be welcoming to all who come to celebrate.

So much in our national thought emphasizes the individual that we tend to forget that we individuals exist in community, from the day we were born. We were born into community from the day our parents “welcomed” us into this world. And as Christians, we were “welcomed” into the community (the body) of Christ on the day of our baptism.

Thus, welcoming is an inherent characteristic of our existence as human beings and as Christians. If nothing else, the idea of welcome, of hospitality is profoundly made in the opening statement of the liturgy: **“The Lord be with you.”** Would that each of us extended this same greeting to those around us as we entered the pew each Sunday. How much more meaningful

then would this solemn greeting of the presider be, capturing the reality that the “you” in that greeting is not only to us as individuals, but more importantly to us as a community -- the body of Christ.

This reality of welcome, of hospitality is not limited to the beginning of our experience of worship, but extends throughout the whole of the liturgy. And each of us plays an important role in continuing the notion of hospitality as an essential aspect of the liturgy. Fr. Frank Coady, rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina, KS, makes this point in an essay he wrote not long ago¹. He notes that focusing on the assembly is important, but equally must include **all** liturgical ministers as well: presider, deacon, lector, server, communion and not least, choir. The manner in which our liturgical ministers perform their ministerial role is essential to achieving liturgical hospitality, to making each of us a welcomed member of the body of Christ, celebrating his presence in this place, at this time each Sunday; and whenever we come together for liturgy.

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy states that the liturgy is the summit and source of all that we as Christians do. If we do not do hospitality when we come together on Sunday to worship, then we are hard pressed to extend this hospitality to those whom we meet during the week, and especially those who need our hospitality -- the poor, the homeless, the sick and all those who need our help.

Soon, special efforts will be made to emphasize the importance of hospitality in our liturgy, in our community of worship – but most of all in our daily life. But, we need not wait until then to be more conscious and active in extending hospitality to those joining us in liturgy each Sunday, becoming a more conscious and active participant in the body of Christ. Do hospitality now to those near in the pew!

- Deacon Bartholomew Merella

¹ “Hospitality in Liturgy,” Rev. Frank Coady, *Liturgical Ministry* 11, Fall 2002