

TODAY'S READINGS

I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. (Luke 3:16)

If you've ever spent a lot of time in a mostly flat area, the sensation of driving up a steep hill and suddenly not being able to see the road ahead of you can be frightening—at least until you realize that there is more road after the hill crests! After a while, you get used to that feeling, but the sense of nervousness or excitement at the top never quite goes away.

This sensation can help us look at today's Gospel reading. When John the Baptist gave the people a road map for how they should act, it must have felt like a dead end to some of them. They wanted to follow his preaching, but they knew it would be hard to change their behaviors—and in some instances, their jobs—in order to live out the justice he had proclaimed.

It must have also felt like a dead end when John told the crowd that he wasn't the Messiah. You can imagine some wondering if they had been following the wrong person all along! But John helped them see the magnificence of the road ahead by telling them that the Messiah was indeed coming—and that John, as great a prophet as he was, wasn't even fit to loosen the thong of his sandals.

Sometimes the road ahead looks a lot like a dead end. Other times we may feel too exhausted to make it over the next hill. But at each juncture, the Lord is there to tell us that a pleasant downhill lies ahead. And not only that, but he reminds us that Jesus is the "one mightier" than John the Baptist (Luke 3:16). He doesn't just cheer us on; he empowers us with his Spirit. He who is in you is strong and mighty. Ask him to give you heavenly strength.

"Lord, strengthen me when the road gets hilly. Help me to stay on the path, look past the dead ends, and see the glorious road ahead."

Taken from *The Word Among Us*, Advent 2015, Vol. 35, Number 1: Used with permission.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 13 Zep 3:14-18 / Phil 4:4-7 / Lk 3:10-18

Third Sunday of Advent

Monday 14 Nm 24:2-7,15-17 / Mt 21:23-27

St. John of the Cross

Tuesday 15 Zep 3:1-2,9-13 / Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday 16 Is 45:6-8,18,21-25 / Lk 7:18-23

Thursday 17 Gn 49:2,8-10 / Mt 1:1-17

Friday 18 Jer 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25

Saturday 19 Jgs 13:2-7,24-25 / Lk 1:5-25

Sunday 20 Mi 5:1-4 / Heb 10:5-10 / Lk 1:39-45

Fourth Sunday of Advent

PARISH CALENDAR

December 13 – 20

Sunday 13—A second collection to benefit the Retirement for Religious is taken at all Masses. 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.

A bilingual afternoon of reflection for young adults is held in the Cathedral from 3:30 to 5:30pm, with confessions available.

Lessons and Carols is presented in the Cathedral at 7:30pm, followed by a sing-along in the Great Hall. Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar continúan a las 11:00 de la mañana.

Monday 14—The Liturgy Committee meets at 6:45pm in the East Conference Room.

Tuesday 15—The Advent Communal Penance Service is held at 12:10pm in the Cathedral, with more than fifteen priests available for confession. **The regular 11am confessions and 12:10pm Mass are not celebrated.**

Legión de María se reúne a las 5:30 de la tarde hasta las 7 en el salón del Oeste.

El grupo de Oración se reúne a las 7 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Norte. **El Obispo Mario Dorsonville** será nuestro invitado especial.

Thursday 17—The Knights of Columbus meet at 7:30pm in the North Conference Room.

Saturday 19—The Rectory hours are 10am to 2pm.

Sunday 20—The Rectory hours are 10:30am to 3pm.

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

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

MILESTONES IN CATHEDRAL HISTORY

1948 – January 21: Msgr. Patrick A. O'Boyle of New York is installed as the first resident Archbishop of Washington. Archbishop O'Boyle begins to integrate archdiocesan parishes and parish schools, including the Calvert School at St. Matthew's.

175th Anniversary Book about St. Matthew's Parish!



Are you curious about the origins and history of St. Matthew's

as a parish? A new book featuring historical narrative, stories, and images from the past 175 years will be available shortly. Use the order form in this bulletin.

ADVENT

See the flyers in this bulletin regarding our Advent Confessions schedule, and our 175th Anniversary Presentation of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 13!

Find the Perfect Gift this Advent – Christmas celebrates the Perfect Gift, the fulfillment of God's love in Jesus. Take time out of the busyness of the season to find true peace. Find out more, and sign up to receive daily Advent reflections by text or email at www.FindthePerfectGift.org.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – St. Matthew's will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (which falls on December 12) today, Sunday, **December 13** 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 21** from 6 to 7pm. Deacon Garcia will preside and give a short reflection. Fr. Barbieri will be available for confessions in English and Spanish during the hour

Cathedral Christmas Cards – St. Matthew's offers boxed sets of Christmas cards featuring St. Matthew's Crèche, and Christmas ornaments. You may purchase items in the Rectory or by contacting us at 202-347-3215 x517 or gharrington@stmatthewscathedral.org. Visa, MasterCard, and Discover are accepted.

Christmas Decorating – On Wednesday 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 X 537 or perwin@stmatthewscathedral.org.

Christmas Offering – During Advent, we reflect upon the many blessings of the Lord, including those graces experienced at St. Matthew's. Your generous response enables the building up the Kingdom of God in our parish and community. You may mail your Christmas offering to the Rectory, drop it in the offertory, or give via Faith Direct or online at www.stmatthewscathedral.org. (Choose *Make a Gift* on the front page, then *Donate* under *Make a One-Time Gift*. After typing address and card information, click *Review Donation* and *Continue*. Choose *Comments*, and in the window type "Christmas."). We truly appreciate your generosity and pray for many blessings for you and your loved ones this Christmas.

Christmas Flowers – Each year every effort is made to decorate the Cathedral for Christmas in a way that truly reflects the noble simplicity of that holy season. Your generous support is needed again. 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 year, so please be assured of our gratitude for all gifts.

NEWS & NOTES

Parish Pastoral Council Elections – Last month St. Matthew's parishioners cast votes to fill four seats on the Parish Council, each for a 3-year term. Msgr. Jameson also made an appointment to fill a fifth seat, also for a 3-year term. Congratulations and thanks to the following new PPC members:

Dan Horning
Susan Aspey
David and Margy Willis (sharing a seat)
Patricia Boehme
Chris Maher (appointed)

For more information on St. Matthew's Parish Pastoral Council, visit <http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/about/parish-council>.



Thank You! Friends Mailing Party – Thank you to those who gathered in the Great Hall of the Rectory last week to prepare the annual Friends of the Cathedral Christmas mailing. We really appreciate your time and presence as we reach out to our

supporters across the country with this mailing. It was a great few hours of fun, fellowship, and refreshment!

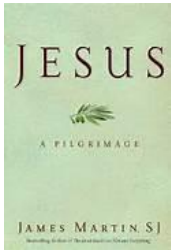
Always God's Children – Always God's Children, the Cathedral's ministry to gay and lesbian persons and their families and friends, will meet Sunday, **December 13** at 3:30pm in the **East Conference Room**.

Rectory Hours – The Rectory hours from Saturday, **December 19** through Monday, **December 28**, are as follows:

Saturday 19 – 10am to 2pm
Sunday 20 – 10:30am to 3pm
Monday 21—Wednesday 23 – 9am to 4:30pm
Christmas Eve, Thursday 24 – 9am to 2pm
Christmas Day, Friday 25—Sunday 27 – Closed
Monday 28 – 9am to 4:30pm

FAITH FORMATION

For more information or to follow up on items below, contact Theresa Prymuszewski, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, at 202-587-5139 or tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org.



Book Club: Jesus: A Pilgrimage - The next two Cathedral Book Club meetings will focus on popular writer Fr. James Martin's *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*. We will discuss Chapters 1 to 12 on Monday, **January 11**, and the remaining chapters, 13 to 25, on Monday, **March 14**. Meetings are held in the West

Conference Room from 6:45 to 8pm. Of this highly acclaimed narrative, Cardinal Sean O'Malley states: "Whether you are one of Jesus's most fervent disciples or a questioning observer on the sidelines, this book will help you to understand that Jesus is our brother and our friend forever." Please consider participating in this riveting meditation on our Merciful Lord.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) - RCIA is an ongoing process for adults who would like to explore our Catholic faith. Newcomers are welcome! RCIA meets on Wednesdays, 7-9pm, in the North Conference Room.

RCIA Call for Sponsors - We are blessed with a growing number of Inquirers who need sponsors to accompany them as they seek Jesus and explore our Catholic Faith. Would you like to explore being a sponsor?

Sunday Children's Faith Formation - A pre-Christmas party for parents, children, catechists and aides will be held on Sunday, **December 13** at 10am in the North Conference Room.

Spiritual Direction - St. Matthew's provides and refers interested persons to qualified spiritual directors.

Armory Men's Group - All men are invited to join the Armory Men's group to watch and discuss "**Priest, Prophet, King**," a study program by Bishop Robert Barron. The next meeting is Monday, **January 4** at 7pm in the West Conference Room.

Jubilee Year of Mercy App - You are invited to install the free app *365 Days to Mercy* from Our Sunday Visitor for resources for the Holy Year of Mercy. Please call Theresa if you need assistance.

Check our parish website for links to online faith formation resources, including [Cardinal Dolan's new ebook](#).

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



Encountering God's Mercy - What is mercy? Mercy is the experience of God's love that forgives faults, heals hurts, and connects us more deeply to God and each other. Pope Francis describes mercy as "the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness" (MV, 2). This Advent as we prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus and to share His love, reflect on how you can open your heart to God's mercy and share that mercy with friends, family, and those most in need. Find resources for reflection and share your story at mercy.adw.org.

OUTREACH



Adopt-a-Family Christmas Drive - Thank you! - Thank you to all who gave gifts, made monetary donations and volunteered their time in this year's Adopt-a-Family Christmas program. Because of your participation and our partnership with sponsor groups in the community, we helped 53 families and individuals in need. We also provided gifts to more than 80 guests of our weekly Homeless Ministry program, four homes of the L'Arche Community of Greater Washington, and youth from the DC General Shelter.



Prepare Food for the Breakfast Ministry - Every Monday morning, St. Matthew's welcomes about 80 poor and homeless men and women and provides breakfast, toiletries and a lunch-bag, and a reflection on the Gospel. We need volunteers to prepare and donate homemade meals or salads and fresh vegetables (serving size: 10 or more). Meal options include potato salad, pasta dishes, rice and beans, and other appetizing foods of your choice. We need commitments to provide food at least once a month. You can deliver food on Sunday for use on Monday morning. Contact Norma Canedo at 202- 347-3215 x552 or ncanedo@stmatthewscathedral.org.

For a fascinating explanation of the meaning of the official logo of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, visit <http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en/giubileo/logo.html>.

LECTURAS DE HOY

San Juan Bautista enseñaba a sus oyentes que debían reformar su modo de vivir y prepararse para la venida del Mesías, y que dieran con generosidad a los pobres. A los cobradores de impuestos les decía que cobraran lo justo, y a los soldados que no abusaran de los débiles y que abandonaran la corrupción. Juan sabía que estos cambios de conducta abrirían el corazón de todos para recibir a Aquel que venía a bautizar con el Espíritu Santo y fuego: Jesús, nuestro Redentor.

Leyendo este pasaje se ve claramente que hay una relación directa entre la conducta personal y la preparación para recibir al Espíritu Santo. Para Juan el Bautista, prepararse para la venida del Mesías involucraba no sólo arrepentirse del pecado, sino también cambiar visiblemente el conducta, como prueba de un arrepentimiento sincero y permanente.

Precisamente, si un cobrador de impuestos hubiera cambiado de repente de actitud y rendido cuentas claras de sus negocios, se habría producido un tumulto en la ciudad. ¿Cómo habría reaccionado la gente si ese cobrador hubiera ido de casa en casa devolviendo el dinero que había cobrado de más? ¿Qué asombro habría causado si anunciara públicamente y en voz alta que había cambiado de vida, y que ahora quería presenciar la llegada de Aquel que lo bautizaría con el Espíritu Santo!

Y, ¿qué podría decirse de ti? ¿Pueden tus amigos y vecinos ver un cambio en tu vida al aproximarse la Navidad? ¿Ven ellos más optimismo, más generosidad y más caridad en tu conducta? Si pueden verlo, entonces puedes considerarte uno de los que han escuchado y acatado la llamada al arrepentimiento. Oremos para que nuestra vida inspire a otros a buscar a Cristo, el Señor, que actúa tan poderosamente en cualquier corazón sincero y bien dispuesto.

"Jesús, Señor mío, quiero llevar una vida que dé frutos y demuestre que me he arrepentido de mi conducta pecaminosa. Concédeme, Señor, tu Espíritu Santo, y la gracia y la fortaleza para serte fiel, de modo que mis amigos y familiares vean a Cristo en mi conducta y deseen entregarse a ti."

Escogida con el permiso de la Palabra Entre Nosotros. Vol 35, Numero 1; Advent 2015.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo 13 Sof 3:14-18 / Fil 4:4-7 / Lc 3:10-18

Tercer Domingo de Adviento

Lunes 14 Núm 24:2-7,15-17 / Mt 21:23-27

San Juan de la Cruz

Martes 1 Sof 3:1-2,9-13 / Mt 21:28-32

Miércoles 16 Is 45:6-8,18,21-25 / Lc 7:18-23

Jueves 17 Gén 49:2,8-10 / Mt 1:1-17

Viernes 18 Je 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25

Sábado 19 Jue 13:2-7,24-25 / Lc 1:5-25

Domingo 20 Mi 5:1-4 / Heb 10:5-10 / Lc 1:39-45

Cuarto Domingo de Adviento

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

Vean los insertos en este boletín acerca de nuestro horario de confesiones en la época de Adviento y presentación de nuestro 175 aniversario de Festival de Villancicos el domingo, 13 de diciembre!



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 1:00 de la tarde hoy domingo

13 de diciembre. Después de la misa habrá refrescos y música en el salón de conferencias del Oeste. ¡Todos están invitados!

Encontrando la Misericordia de Dios – ¿Qué es misericordia? La misericordia es la experiencia del amor de Dios que perdona culpas, cura heridas y nos conecta más profundamente con Dios y entre sí. El Papa Francisco describe la misericordia como "el puente que conecta a Dios y el hombre, abrir nuestros corazones a la esperanza de ser amado para siempre a pesar de nuestros pecados" (MT 2). Este Adviento preparamos nuestros corazones para recibir a Jesús y compartir su amor; reflexione sobre cómo puede abrir su corazón a la misericordia de Dios y compartir esa misericordia con amigos, familiares y los más necesitados. Para aprender más sobre como puede encontrar la misericordia de Dios en este año, vaya a: mercy.adw.org.

Regalo Perfecto – Navidad celebra con alegría el regalo perfecto, el cumplimiento del amor de Dios en Jesús. Este Adviento, toma tiempo fuera del ajetreo de la temporada para encontrar la verdadera paz. Infórmate e insíbete para recibir diariamente reflexiones de Adviento por texto o por correo electrónico al www.RegaloPerfecto.org.

Grupo de Oración – Tema para el año 2015-16 – El grupo de Oración tendrá charlas programadas a través del año 2016. Tema es: **"La Profesión de la Fe."** este martes **15 de diciembre** tendremos como invitado especial al Obispo Mario Dorsonville quien nos hablara sobre Navidad y Alegría a las 7:00 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Norte.

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

Horario de la Rectoría – Horario de la Rectoría del **19 de**

diciembre al 28 y es el siguiente:

Sábado 19 – 10 de la mañana a 2 de la tarde

Domingo 20 – 10:30 de la mañana a 3 de la tarde

Lunes 21 a miércoles 23 – 9 de la mañana a 4:30 de la tarde

Jueves 24 – 9 de la mañana a 2 de la tarde

Viernes 25 a domingo 27 – Cerrado

Lunes 28 – 9 de la mañana a 4:30 de la tarde

Adoración al Santísimo

Sacramento – Les invitamos el **lunes 21 de diciembre** después de la misa de 5:30 de la tarde, a que se unan en adoración al Santísimo, de 6:00 a 7:00 de la tarde. El Sacramento de Reconciliación estará disponible durante la hora de la adoración.

Colecta Navideña de Adopte-una-Familia

– Gracias a todos quienes contribuyeron con regalos, donaciones monetarias y con su tiempo como voluntarios para ayudar con el programa navideño de Adopte-una-Familia. Debido a su participación y a los patrocinadores de la comunidad, pudimos ayudar a más de 53 familias e individuos en necesidad. También pudimos obtener regalos para más de 80 visitantes de nuestro programa semanal que sirve a personas sin hogar. Este año también se pudo incluir a nuestros amigos de la Comunidad de L'Arche de Washington y a jóvenes del albergue DC General.

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. Sabemos que en esta época, hay muchas solicitudes, por eso 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. Agradecemos sinceramente su generosidad y pido a Dios que esta Navidad traiga muchas bendiciones a usted y toda su familia.

Prepare Comida para el

Ministerio de Desayuno – Cada lunes por la mañana, San Mateo invita a aproximadamente 80 hombres y mujeres necesitados, para desayuno, útiles de tocador y una bolsa de almuerzo y una reflexión sobre el Evangelio. Buscamos a voluntarios que estén interesados en cocinar y donar comida caliente o preparar ensalada o vegetales en su hogar, para 10 o más personas. Puede anotarse para proveer comida por lo menos una vez al mes y hasta lo puede dejar la comida el domingo para que se sirva el lunes por la mañana. Póngase en contacto con Norma Canedo al 202-347-3215 x552 o ncanedo@stmatthewscathedral.org.

MASS INTENTIONS

December 13 – 20

Sunday, December 13

5:30pm (December 12 Vigil) – All Parishioners

7am – Tracy Marshall

8:30am – Vincenta Jaime Matzen

10am – Anna Marie Troidl

11:30am – Joe L. Myberry

1pm – Maria Angeles Latasa

5:30pm – Philip Buffa

Monday, December 14

7am – Special Intention JA & V (living)

8am – Corrie Vergal de Dios (living)

12:10pm – Thomas B. McDonald

5:30pm – Marge Stevick

Tuesday, December 15

7am – Msgr. Richard Burton

8am – Norm Haugen

5:30pm – Rita Gazzillo

Wednesday, December 16

7am – James McGrath (living)

8am – Ilse Pollard

12:10pm – Antoinette Russo

5:30pm – Ronald Steffensen

Thursday, December 17

7am – Victims of terrorism in Paris

8am – David L. Perrigo

12:10pm – Rev. Franklin McAffe (living)

5:30pm – Florence Pufahl

Friday, December 18

7am – Terry Bork (living)

8am – Debbie Barahona (living)

12:10pm – Rev. Christopher Pollard & family (living)

5:30pm – Gary Morgan

Saturday, December 19

8am – Jerry Dunne

12:10pm – 30th Wedding Anniversary

Claudia & Chip Hughes (living)

5:30pm – Frances Moresi

Sunday, December 20

7am – All Parishioners

8:30am – Fred Thompson

10am – Katie Hennemath Reap

11:30am – Julia Stirrup

1pm – John Forchette

5:30pm – Eloise Ransom

You may arrange a Mass intention by speaking 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.



Saint Matthew's Cathedral



A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Including

The Great "O" Antiphons in Latin Chant and the music
from the Renaissance to Contemporary Classics

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

**Sunday, December 13, 2015
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.

Cathedral parking garage will remain open.





ADVENT CONFESSIONS CONFESIONES DE ADVIENTO

Two priests on weekdays

Monday, December 14
11am - Noon

Tuesday, December 15
12:10pm (English, Spanish & other
languages, part of our ADVENT
COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE)
(no 11am Confessions)

Wednesday, December 16
11am - Noon

Thursday, December 17
11am - Noon (English & Spanish)

Friday, December 18
11am – Noon (English & Spanish)

Saturday, December 19
4 - 5pm (English & Spanish)

Sunday, December 20
No confessions

Monday, December 21
11am – Noon
6 - 7pm (during EUCHARISTIC ADORATION,
English & Spanish)

Tuesday, December 22
11am to Noon (English & Spanish)

Wednesday, December 23
11am to Noon

Thursday, December 24
11am to Noon
(English & Spanish)

Dos padres confesando en la semana

Lunes, 14 de diciembre
11 de la mañana a 12 del mediodía y

Martes, 15 de diciembre
12:10 del mediodía (inglés, español, y otros idiomas
parte de nuestro programa de ADVIENTO SERVICIO
COMUNAL DE PENITENCIA)
(no hay Confesiones a las 11 de la mañana)

Miércoles, 16 de diciembre
11 de la mañana a 12 del mediodía

Jueves, 17 de diciembre
11 de la mañana a 12 del mediodía
(inglés y español)

Viernes, 18 de diciembre
11 de la mañana a 12 del mediodía
(inglés y español)

Sábado, 19 de diciembre
4 a 5 de la tarde
(inglés y español)

Domingo, 20 de diciembre
No habrá confesiones

Lunes, 21 de diciembre
11 de la mañana a 12 del mediodía
6 a 7 de la tarde (durante ADORACIÓN EUCARÍSTICA,
inglés y español)

Martes, 22 de diciembre
11 de la mañana a 12 del mediodía
(inglés y español)

Miércoles, 23 de diciembre
11 de la mañana a 12 del mediodía

Jueves, 24 de diciembre
11 de la mañana a 12 del mediodía
(inglés y español)

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE
1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

www.stmatthewscathedral.org www.facebook.com/st.matthews.cathedral



CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson, V.F., Rector

Shrines of France

10-Day 175th Anniversary Pilgrimage: April 13 - 22, 2016

\$3,665.00 per person, from Washington Dulles Airport

Lyon  Ars  Annecy  Paray-le-Monial
Chartres  Lisieux  Normandy  Paris  Lourdes

Dear Friends and Families of the Cathedral Parish of St. Matthew the Apostle,

As we bask in the glow of the celebration of our 175th Anniversary, I would like to invite you to join us on a special 10-day pilgrimage in April of 2016. On this pilgrimage to France we will meet Saints you heard about growing up – remember St. Catherine Labouré and the Miraculous Medal (some of you still wear that medal today!) – as well as Saints you often hear about in our homilies (St. John Vianney, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and St. Thérèse, the Little Flower). This pilgrimage will allow these Saints to inspire you all the more as we see and visit the places and the culture where they lived.

We also will visit and pray at the beaches of Normandy remembering those who lost their lives here, pray for those who served our country in World War II, and for those who presently serve us in the armed forces ensuring the freedom we enjoy today.

We will allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us on this journey through history, art, and culture. We also will listen to Him speak to us through one another; for on a pilgrimage we not only pray with each other and share the Eucharist around the Table of the Lord, but we also share around a table with food and drink of the region (and most of us have heard of the gastronomical delights of French food and wine!).

To view the pilgrimage brochure and enrollment form, click [here](#) or visit the front page of our parish website for a link. You may also contact Peter's Way Tours directly at 1-800-225-7662 or peter@petersway.com.

I hope you will join us as we visit Lyon, Annecy, Ars, Paray-le-Monial, Nevers, Chartres, Lisieux and Paris. What a way to top off our 175th celebration—ending our rewarding and memorable journey in Lourdes, France.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson, V.F.
Rector

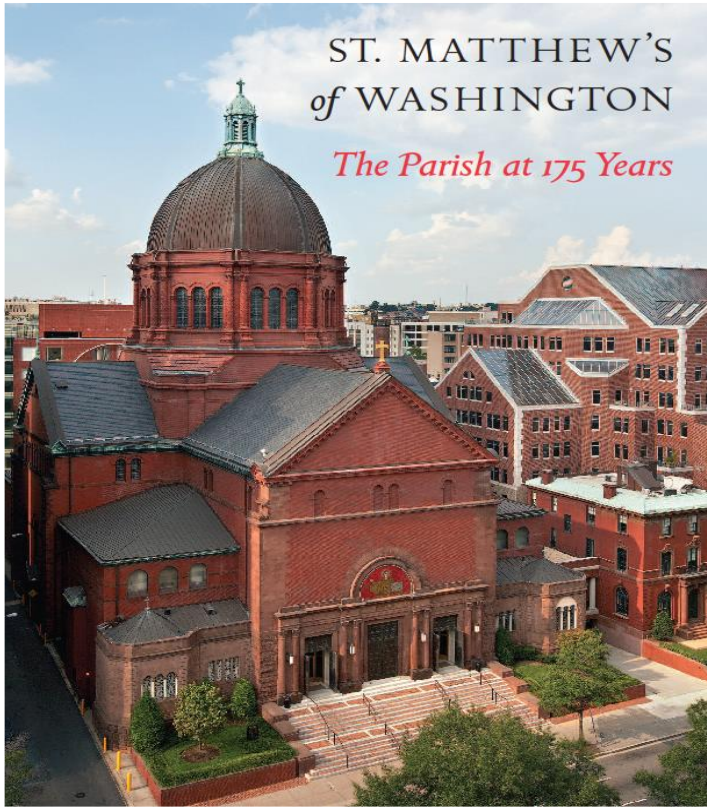


175TH ANNIVERSARY

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

Sharing the Joy of the Gospel in Our Nation's Capital for 175 Years

SAINT MATTHEW'S 175th ANNIVERSARY BOOK



Are you curious about the origins and history of St. Matthew's as a parish? A new book featuring historical narratives, fascinating stories, and beautifully illustrated images, many never published before, from the past 175 years will be available December 16, 2015. A lively account of the parish's evolution from 1840 to the present highlights St. Matthew's over the years, parish life, and making a difference through social justice. Located in one of the most important cities in the world, St. Matthew's has a special role in discerning and serving the spiritual needs of residents of every type who make Washington their home, whether for a season or a lifetime. This 175th anniversary publication presents the events, developments, and personalities in the context of the religious, social, economic, and political circumstances of the times. This book is a valuable resource and enjoyable reading.

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Come Home for Christmas—

Advent Communal Penance Service

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

12:10 p.m



We invite you to experience the love of Christ through the Sacrament of Reconciliation at our Advent Communal Penance Service, *Come Home for Christmas*.

Experience the power of the sacrament, which restores us to God's grace and joins us with him in an intimate friendship.

Join parishioners and friends as we acknowledge our need for forgiveness from sin and reconciliation with God in preparation for the coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, at Christmas.

Priests from around the Archdiocese will be available for individual confessions in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German, French, Kiswahili and American Sign.

Questions?

Contact the Rectory at 202-347-3215
CATHEDRAL OF SAINT MATTHEW THE APOSTLE
1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
www.stmatthewscathedral.org

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

What is Reconciliation and Why do we need it?

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (also called Confession) was instituted by Jesus Christ in His love and mercy for the Christian Faithful. The sacrament offers the Faithful forgiveness for all offenses committed against God. The Sacrament also reconciles us to the Church because the Church community is also wounded by one's sins.

When we sin, we hurt ourselves, other people and God. Through the sacrament of reconciliation, we acknowledge our sins before God and the Church. We express our sorrow, receive the forgiveness of Christ & the Church, make reparation for what we have done and resolve to do better in the future.

How Do I Make a Meaningful Confession?

Confession is not hard, but one should properly prepare themselves for the sacrament through an examination of conscience. Begin by placing yourself in the presence of God through prayer. Ask God, Our loving Father for healing and forgiveness. Carefully review your life since your last confession- what thoughts, actions, words have not conformed to God's love, to His Law or to the laws of the Church? Here are some questions based on the 10 Commandments to help you prepare:

- Do I pray to God every day? Have I thanked God for His gifts to me?
- Did I put my faith in danger through readings hostile to Catholic teachings or involvement in non-Catholic sects? Did I engage in superstitious practices: palm-reading or fortune-telling?
- Did I take the name of God in vain? Did I curse or take a false oath?
- Did I miss Mass on Sundays or holy days of obligation through my own fault? Am I attentive at Mass? Did I keep fast and abstinence on the prescribed days?
- Did I disobey my parents and lawful superiors in important matters?
- Did I hate or quarrel with anyone, or desire revenge? Did I refuse to forgive? Was I disrespectful?
- Did I get drunk? Did I take illicit drugs?
- Did I consent to, recommend, advise or actively take part in an abortion?
- Did I willfully look at pornography, entertain impure thoughts or engage in impure conversations? Did I use artificial means to prevent conception?
- Was I unfaithful to my spouse? Did I engage in sexual activity outside of marriage? Did I steal or damage another's property? Have I been honest and just in my business relations?
- Have I been responsive to the needs of the poor and respected the dignity of others?
- Did I tell lies? Did I sin by calumny, or detraction, of others? Did I judge others rashly in serious matters?
- Have I envied other people?

The Rite of Reconciliation: A Step by Step Guide

The sacrament can be face to face or anonymous with a screen between you and the priest. Choose the option which is the most comfortable for you.

1. The priest gives you a blessing or greeting. He may share a brief Scripture passage.
2. Make the Sign of the Cross and say: "Bless me father, for I have sinned. My last confession was..." (give the number of weeks, months, or years).
3. Confess all of your sins to the priest. The priest will help you to make a good confession. If you are unsure about how to confess or you feel uneasy, just ask him to help you. Answer his questions without hiding anything out of fear or shame. Nothing that you say to the priest will ever be revealed. Place your trust in God, a merciful Father who wants to forgive you.
4. Following your confession of sins, say: "I am sorry for these and all of my sins."
5. The priest assigns you a penance and offers advice to help you be a better Catholic.
6. Say an Act of Contrition, expressing your sorrow for your sins. There are several versions of the Act of Contrition but a common one is: "God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell; but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to confess my sins, do penance, and to amend my life. Amen."
7. The priest, acting in the person of Christ, then absolves you from your sins.
8. After you've left the Confessional or Reconciliation Room: Complete the penance you received.

This condensed guide for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is based on the Archdiocese's "The Light Is On For You," campaign. For more resources please see www.the-light-is-on.org.

Vuelve a Casa Para Navidad

Servicio Comunitario de la Penitencia de Adviento

Martes 15 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

El Sacramento de la Reconciliación

¿Qué es la Reconciliación y Porque la necesitamos?

La Reconciliación (también conocida como Confesión) es un sacramento instituido por Jesucristo en Su amor y misericordia para ofrecer el perdón a los pecadores por las ofensas cometidas a Dios. Al mismo tiempo, los pecadores se reconcilian con la Iglesia porque está herida por sus pecados. Cada vez que pecamos, nos herimos a nosotros mismos, a otras personas y a Dios. En la Reconciliación, reconocemos nuestros pecados ante Dios y Su Iglesia. Expresamos nuestro pesar de una manera especial, recibimos el perdón de Cristo y su Iglesia, reparamos lo que hemos hecho y decidimos comportarnos mejor en el futuro.

¿Cómo hacer una buena confesión?

La confesión no es difícil pero requiere preparación. Debemos empezar con una oración, ubicándonos ante la presencia de Dios, nuestro Padre Amado. Buscamos sanación con el perdón, a través del arrepentimiento y una decisión de no pecar más. Entonces revisamos nuestras vidas desde nuestra última confesión, buscando nuestros pensamientos, palabras y acciones que no estuvieron conforme al mandamiento de Dios de amarlo a él y a los demás por medio de la obediencia a sus leyes y las leyes de Su Iglesia. A esto se le llama examen de conciencia. Para hacer un examen de conciencia: Comience con una oración pidiendo la asistencia de Dios. Revise su vida con la ayuda de algunas preguntas, que están basadas en los 10 mandamientos (vea el siguiente panel). Dígame a Dios cuánto siente realmente haber pecado. Haga una firme resolución de no pecar otra vez.

- ¿Oro a Dios todos los días? ¿He agradecido a Dios por los regalos que me ha hecho?
- ¿Puse mi fe en peligro a través de lecturas contrarias a la enseñanza católica o envolviéndome en sectas no-católicas? ¿Participé en prácticas supersticiosas: lectura de mano o adivinación del futuro?
- ¿Juré el nombre de Dios en vano? ¿Maldije o di falso testimonio?
- ¿Falté a misa los domingos o días de guardar o de obligación a propósito? ¿Estoy atento(a) en la misa? ¿Guardo abstinencia en los días prescritos?
- ¿Desobedecí a mis padres y a los superiores de la ley en cosas importantes?
- ¿Odio o tengo disputas o deseos de venganza? ¿Niego el perdón? ¿He sido irrespetuoso?
- ¿Me embriago? ¿Consumo drogas ilícitas?
- ¿He consentido, recomendado, aconsejado o tomado parte activa en un aborto?
- ¿Intencionalmente, he mirado pornografía, entretenido pensamientos impuros, o participado en acciones o conversaciones impuras? ¿He usado cosas artificiales para prevenir la concepción?
- ¿He sido infiel a mi esposo o esposa? ¿He tenido actividad sexual fuera del matrimonio?
- ¿He robado o dañado la propiedad de otra persona? ¿He sido honesto y justo en los negocios?
- ¿He respondido a las necesidades de los pobres y respetado la dignidad de los otros?
- ¿He mentido? ¿He calumniado o difamado? ¿He juzgado a otros durante asuntos serio?
- ¿He envidiado a otra gente?

Rito de Reconciliación

La Reconciliación puede ser cara a cara o anónima, con una rejilla entre usted y el sacerdote. Escoja la opción que le sea más cómoda.

1. El sacerdote le da una bendición o lo saluda; puede que también comparta un pasaje de las Escrituras.
2. Haga la Señal de la Cruz y diga: *"Bendígame Padre, he pecado. Mi última confesión fue..."* (semanas, meses o años).
3. Confiese todos sus pecados al sacerdote. El sacerdote lo ayudará a hacer una buena confesión. Si usted no está seguro acerca de cómo debe hacer una buena confesión o cree que es difícil hacerlo, sólo pídale al sacerdote que lo (la) ayude. Responda a las preguntas sin esconder algo por temor o vergüenza. Ponga su confianza en Dios el Padre misericordioso que quiere perdonarlo.
4. Luego que haya confesado sus pecados diga: *"Me arrepiento por estos y todos mis pecados"*.
5. El sacerdote le asigna una penitencia y le aconseja para ayudarlo a ser un mejor católico.
6. Haga el Acto de Contrición, expresando su arrepentimiento por sus pecados.
7. El sacerdote, actuando en la persona de Cristo, lo absuelve de sus pecados.
8. Después que usted salga del confesionario haga la penitencia que le fue impuesta.

Esta es una guía resumida para el Sacramento de la reconciliación y esta basa en la campaña de la Arquidiócesis "la luz está encendida para ti".

Para más información, vaya a www.the-light-es-on.org