

## TODAY'S READINGS

“When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Child, your sins are forgiven.’”  
(Mark 2:5)

Did you catch that? Jesus forgave this man and healed his paralysis because he saw the faith of his friends! It wasn't the paralyzed man's faith that moved him, it was his friends' faith. These four men stood with their friend and were convinced that if they could just get him to Jesus, he could be healed. Even if it meant tearing up the roof, they loved their friend enough—and they believed in Jesus enough—to do it.

What a moving illustration of true brotherhood! While the paralyzed man doubtless had faith himself, it was his four friends who actually got him to Jesus. If it weren't for them, he would never have been able to walk—or known Jesus' forgiveness.

Jesus never intended the Christian life to be a solitary journey. On the contrary, we are stronger when we are surrounded and supported by brothers and sisters in the faith. Where the world tells us to be independent and self-reliant, Jesus tells us to lean on each other—and to let others lean on us. That's probably why he sent his disciples to preach two by two. He knew they needed to balance each other out, with one helping the other in moments of weakness or tiredness. He knew they needed each other so that they would not fall to temptations of pride, or give up in the face of opposition or hardship.

What about you? Do you have brothers and sisters to help bring you to Jesus? Are there people whom you would go out of your way to help in their faith? It's always a good idea to reach out to one or two people in your parish and try to build a friendship with them based on your faith. God wants to give us companions along the way. May we all be open to so generous a gift, the gift of one another.

*“Thank you, Lord, for the gift of friendship! You promised that you would be with us always. What a treasure that you fulfill that promise through faithful friends!”*

Taken from *The Word Among Us*, February 2012, Vol. 31, Number 3: Used with permission.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

<b>Sunday 19th</b>	Is 43:18-19,21-22,24-25 / 2 Cor 1:18-22 / Mk 2:1-12
<b>Monday 20th</b>	Jas 3:13-18 / Mk 9:14-29
<b>Tuesday 21st</b>	Jas 4:1-10 / Mk 9:30-37
<i>St. Peter Damian</i>	
<b>Wednesday 22nd</b>	Jl 2:2,12-18 / 2 Cor 5:20—6:2 / Mt 6:1-6,16-18
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	
<b>Thursday 23rd</b>	Dt 30:15-20 / Lk 9:22-25
<i>St. Polycarp</i>	
<b>Friday 24th</b>	Is 58:1-9 / Mt 9:14-15
<b>Saturday 25th</b>	Is 58:9-14 / Lk 5:27-32
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	Gn 9:8-15 / 1 Pt 3:18-22 / Mk 1:12-15

## LAS LECTURAS DE HOY

En el relato de la curación del parálítico que leemos hoy se ve claramente que las autoridades religiosas se oponían a la revelación de la Persona de Jesús.

Varios puntos de conflicto surgieron entre Jesús y los jefes religiosos durante la curación. El primero sucedió cuando Jesús declaró que los pecados del hombre quedaban perdonados (Marcos 2,5). Para los judíos, la autoridad para perdonar los pecados era potestad exclusiva de Dios, según lo que leían y entendían en el Antiguo Testamento. Posteriormente Jesús se identificó como el “Hijo del hombre”, y declaró tener autoridad para perdonar los pecados (Marcos 2,10). Los judíos sabían que la frase bíblica “el Hijo del hombre” (Daniel 7,13-14) se refería al Mesías, que vendría a inaugurar el Reino de Dios. El Señor se identificaba con esta figura mesiánica para preparar al pueblo para la obra que realizaría mediante su pasión, muerte y resurrección.

Pero al ver la curación, la gente reaccionó de una manera totalmente distinta a los escribas, que censuraron a Jesús (Marcos 2,7.12). La multitud se maravillaba y glorificaba a Dios y muchos se hicieron discípulos del Señor.

¿Por qué la gente pudo reconocer que Jesús era el Mesías mientras los jefes religiosos rechazaban la revelación? Porque la gente era sencilla y tenía fe, como los amigos del parálítico (Marcos 2,5). San Hilario, en su tratado sobre la Trinidad, declaró: “La mente humana tiene que tener fe por el don del Espíritu porque de otro modo, aunque Dios está ahí para ser entendido, no tendrá la luz necesaria para conocerlo”. Aun cuando el poder y la misericordia de Cristo se mostraban claramente y los que tenían fe podían verlos, la incredulidad cegaba los ojos de los jefes religiosos.

*“Señor, abre nuestro corazón para ver más claramente la realidad actual. Cúranos de los conceptos arraigados que limitan nuestro entendimiento acerca de tu plan de salvación.”*

Escogida con el permiso de *La Palabra Entre Nosotros*, Vol. 31, Número 3: Febrero 2012.

## LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

<b>Domingo 19</b>	Is 43:18-19,21-22,24-25 / 2 Cor 1:18-22 / Mc 2:1-12
<b>Lunes 20</b>	Stgo 3:13-18 / Mc 9:14-29
<b>Martes 21</b>	Stgo 4:1-10 / Mc 9:30-37
<i>San Pedro Damian</i>	
<b>Miércoles 22</b>	Jl 2:12-18 / 2 Cor 5:20—6:2 / Mt 6:1-6,16-18
<i>Miércoles de Ceniza</i>	
<b>Jueves 23</b>	Deut 30:15-20 / Lc 9:22-25
<i>San Policarpo</i>	
<b>Viernes 24</b>	Is 58:1-9 / Mt 9:14-15
<b>Sábado 25</b>	Is 58:9-14 / Lc 5:27-32
<b>Domingo 26</b>	Gén 9:8-15 / 1 Pe 3:18-22 / Mc 1:12-15

## FAITH FORMATION

### rites of sending and election

This Sunday, *February 19*, we will celebrate the Rite of Sending at the 11:30am Mass for 21 women and men who have been preparing to become Catholic through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. During this brief ceremony, the parish community will affirm these individuals and send them to Cardinal Wuerl for a special liturgy at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the First Sunday of Lent. During this Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, Cardinal Wuerl will welcome these women and men and encourage them on their faith journeys. At the Easter Vigil, eight of these individuals will become Christians through Baptism in the Catholic Church, nine will formally join the Catholic Church from other Christian denominations, and four will complete their Catholic initiation. Please keep these women and men in your prayers.

### BOOK CLUB: JESUS OF NAZARETH (PART 2)

All are welcome to join the St. Matthew's Book Club for their next meeting on Monday, *March 12* to discuss *Jesus of Nazareth (Part 2)* by Pope Benedict XVI. This book is the second installment in Pope Benedict's spiritual reflections on the life of Christ. In it, Pope Benedict focuses on the events that we now celebrate during Holy Week. The Book Club meets in the West Conference Room at 6:45pm. Please contact Paul Zummo at [pzummo@gmail.com](mailto:pzummo@gmail.com) with any questions.

### BECOMING CATHOLIC

Throughout the year, adults come forward seeking to learn about the Catholic faith. For those who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith or thinking about becoming Catholic, St. Matthew's offers Inquiry, a casual, ongoing conversation about the Catholic faith, once a month. Inquiry is the first step in the process of discerning one's commitment to full initiation in the Catholic Church. Inquiry meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 7:30pm in the East Conference Room. A brief overview of the entire adult initiation process (RCIA), which begins formally in June each year, can be presented after Inquiry for those who are interested. The next Inquiry will be held Wednesday, *March 14*. For more information, contact Heather Kinney at [hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org).

### PRESIDENTS' DAY SCHEDULE

Monday, *February 20* is Presidents' Day, a Federal holiday. The Cathedral will open at 7:30am and close at 1pm. Masses will be celebrated at 8am and 12:10pm. There will be no Confessions, and no Eucharistic Holy Hour. The Rectory offices will be closed.

**Note that our monthly Eucharistic Holy Hour is rescheduled to Monday, February 27.**

## CATHEDRAL CALENDAR

February 19 - February 26

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

Charla de evangelización para padres de familia a las 11:00 de la mañana en el salón de conferencia del Oeste.

**MONDAY**—Presidents' Day, a Federal holiday. The Cathedral opens at 7:30am and closes at 1pm.

Masses are celebrated at 8am and 12:10pm. There are no Confessions. The Rectory offices are closed.

**TUESDAY**—El Grupo de oración en español se reunirá a las 7 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Oeste.

**WEDNESDAY**—**Ash Wednesday**. Masses are celebrated at 7am, 8am, 11am, 12:10pm (**Cardinal Wuerl**), 1:15pm, 5:30pm and 7pm (en Español), with distribution of ashes at all Masses. No confessions are scheduled.

**Stations of the Cross** are prayed at 3pm.

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

**El Via Crucis** se rezará (en español) a las 8pm.

**FRIDAY**—**Stations of the Cross** are prayed at 6pm, followed by a Simple Lenten Meal served in the North Conference Room.

**SATURDAY**—A Lenten Day of Recollection is held at 9am in the North Conference Room.

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

**El Via Crucis** se rezará (en español) a las 2:15 de la tarde.

### ADULT CONFIRMATION PREPARATION— REGISTER NOW !!!

*St. Matthew's offers adult Confirmation preparation in the weeks between Easter and Pentecost for active, baptized Catholics who have received First Eucharist but not Confirmation. The celebration of adult Confirmation occurs at a special Mass on Pentecost Sunday, **May 27** (Memorial Day weekend). The preparation includes five sessions, 7- 8:30pm, on Thursdays, **April 19 & 26 and May 3, 10 & 17** and a Saturday retreat on **May 19**.*

**To register, pick up a registration packet in the Rectory, or download and print it on the Cathedral website**

**([www.stmatthewscathedral.org](http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org)).**

**Registration materials are due to Heather Kinney, Director of Faith Formation, in the Rectory no later than Friday, March 23.**

**Questions? Contact Heather at [hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org).**

## NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

### OPERACIÓN TAZA DE ARROZ

Este fin de semana **18-19 de febrero** se llevará a cabo la distribución de Taza de Arroz después de todas las misas. Participaremos en "Servicios Católicos de Socorro", programa de Cuaresma, Operación Taza de Arroz. Su apoyo no sólo ayuda a las familias locales sino también a las familias de todo el mundo. Le invitamos a participar en la Operación Taza de Arroz en casa con su familia y sus seres queridos.

### DÍA DE LOS PRESIDENTES Y ADORACIÓN AL SANTÍSIMO

Este lunes **20 de febrero** es día de los Presidentes. Fiesta federal. La Catedral abrirá a las 7:30 de la mañana y cerrará a la 1 de la tarde. Se celebrarán las misas de 8 de la mañana y 12:10 del mediodía; no habrá confesiones y las oficinas de la rectoría estarán cerradas. La adoración al Santísimo que normalmente se celebra el tercer lunes del mes, se celebrará el siguiente lunes, **27 de febrero**.

### AYUNAR

Miércoles de Ceniza (**22 de febrero**) y Viernes Santo (**6 de abril**) son días de ayuno y abstinencia. Los católicos que ya llegaron a los 18 años de edad, pero que son menores de 60 años, están obligados al ayuno, que consiste en una sola comida completa durante el día. Todos los católicos que han cumplido 14 años están obligados a los días de abstinencia en los cuales no se debe de comer carne. Miércoles de Ceniza, Viernes Santo y todos los viernes de Cuaresma son días de abstinencia.

### CONFESIONES LOS MIÉRCOLES DE CUARESMA

En este tiempo de Cuaresma, la Catedral de San Mateo tendrá confesiones disponibles los miércoles de Cuaresma de 6:30 a 8 de la noche comenzando el **29 de febrero**, tendremos confesiones en Inglés y Español, exceptuando el Miércoles de Ceniza y Miércoles Santo, además del horario regular de confesiones (lunes-viernes, 11-12 y sábados 4-5 de la tarde).

### VIA CRUCIS

El Vía Crucis, revisado por el Papa Juan Pablo II, se rezará en inglés los viernes a las 6 de la tarde y en español los domingos a las 2:15 de la tarde durante la Cuaresma. Les invitamos a unirse a nosotros en esta devoción cuaresmal.

### MISA ANUAL DE JUBILEO MATRIMONIAL

Donald Cardenal Wuerl estará presidiendo la misa anual para celebrar a las parejas que están conmemorando 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 o más años de matrimonio el domingo **3 de junio** a las 2:00 de la tarde, en la Basílica de la Inmaculada Concepción. Por favor llame a la Rectoría al 202-347-3215. Todas las parejas que desean participar tienen que estar inscritas antes del viernes **13 de abril**.

### MARCH ROSARIES FOR THE UNBORN

Approximately 37,000 children are aborted in Maryland each year—more than 700 per week. This rate is 50% higher than the national average. While our legislative and pastoral actions to end abortion are necessary, our prayers are pivotal. The Archdiocese of Washington, in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus in Maryland, the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and the Diocese of Wilmington, is seeking prayer pledges for least 100,000 rosaries for the unborn in the month of March. **Pledge on-line at [www.archbalt.org/family-life/respect-life/rosary-pledges.cfm](http://www.archbalt.org/family-life/respect-life/rosary-pledges.cfm).**



### ESCUELA SAN MIGUEL

La Escuela San Miguel (varones) ubicada en el 7705 Georgia Ave. NW esta aceptando aplicaciones para estudiantes que entrarán al sexto grado, año escolar 2012-2013. Los varones necesitan tomar un examen el sábado **25 de febrero** de 9 a 11:30 de la mañana. Hay que rellenar la aplicación en la escuela, traer una carta de recomendación de un profesor, documentos de transferencia de la escuela, impuestos federales del año 2011.

### CLASES PARA LA CONFIRMACIÓN DE ADULTOS

Las personas adultas que deseen recibir el sacramento de la Confirmación el **27 de mayo**, día de Pentecostés, tienen que recibir unas clases que se ofrecerán los domingos. Para más información vean los próximos boletines.

## NEWS & NOTES

### TRAINING SESSION FOR EMCS

Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion fulfill Christ's will to feed the hungry with his Body and Blood. If you are interested in serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at the Cathedral, please attend our next training session on Saturday, **March 3** from 9 to 11:30am in the East Conference Room. To be an EMC you must have been baptized, received first Holy Communion and been confirmed in the Catholic Church. EMCs serve at Masses on Sundays and throughout the week.

### ST. MATTHEW'S ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

All women parishioners and friends are invited to St. Matthew's annual Women's Retreat on the weekend of **March 23-25** at the Washington Retreat House in Northeast Washington, DC, organized by our Cathedral Club. For more information, call Mary Latka at 202-232-3261 or pick up an information letter and reservation form at the Rectoría. Accept the invitation and come away with the Lord this Lent!

## LIVING LENT 2012 ✕

### OPERATION RICE BOWL

As part of our faith community's Lenten observance, we will participate in Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program, Operation Rice Bowl. Since 1975, Operation Rice Bowl has inspired Catholics in the United States to pray, fast, learn and give, as we increase our understanding of our global community. Your support will not only help local families but also families from around the world. We encourage you to participate in Operation Rice Bowl at home with your family and loved ones. Pick up a Rice Bowl donations box at the back of the Cathedral after Mass this weekend. Use this box to deposit spare change and other monetary donations and return it on the weekend of March 18.

### SHARE IN HOPE FOOD DRIVE

Hunger is an ever-present reality in our community. Local food pantries are experiencing a great demand for food. To help replenish supplies, Catholic Charities and the Archdiocese of Washington are sponsoring the Share in Hope Food Drive this Lent. If you would like to participate, you may pick up a bag next weekend, **February 25-26**, after all Masses. We ask that you turn in your donations of nonperishable food items the following weekend, **March 3-4**. Our collection will be donated to the Capital Area Food Bank. Thank you for all you do to help the needy among us.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING CONFESSIONS

This Lenten season, each Catholic parish in the Archdiocese of Washington and the Diocese of Arlington will have confessions available every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8pm. At St. Matthew's, Wednesday evening confessions will be heard in English and Spanish from 6:30 to 8pm in addition to our regularly scheduled confessions (weekdays, 11am-Noon and Saturdays, 4-5pm). Plan now to come and experience forgiveness and reconciliation with the Father through the Son!

### LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday (**February 22**) and Good Friday (**April 6**) are days of fast and abstinence. All Catholics who have reached their 18th birthday and are less than 60 years of age are bound to observe the fast, by which they are limited to a single full meal during the course of the day. All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday must observe days of abstinence, during which no meat may be eaten. Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Via Crucis is a journey made in the Holy Spirit, that divine fire that burned in the heart of Jesus (cf Lk 1: 49-50) and brought him to Calvary. The Stations of the Cross, in the form adopted by Pope John Paul II, will be prayed in English on Fridays at 6pm (followed by a Simple Lenten Meal; see flyer) and in Spanish on Sundays at 2:15pm throughout Lent and on Good Friday, **April 6**. Join us for this beautiful devotion, which is particularly fitting for Lent.

## AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD HEALING RETREAT

The Washington DC/Maryland Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Team will host a healing retreat weekend on **March 2-4** that provides the opportunity to work through unresolved pain and grief associated with abortion. Through a personal encounter with our Lord, one comes to understand that God loves us despite our human failures and weaknesses. This retreat is offered in both Spanish and English, and to both men and women. All inquiries are confidential. Contact: Deborah Penzak at 240-423-6083 or [dpenzak@hotmail.com](mailto:dpenzak@hotmail.com).

### 9TH ANNUAL "LIVE JESUS"

Fr. Jim Greenfield, OSFS and the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales invite you to attend "Live Jesus", a Lenten morning of Salesian Spirituality on Saturday, **March 17** at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School (Nolan Center for Performing Arts, 1524 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Washington, DC). The theme is "Hospitality of the Heart: Welcoming Our Friends and Our Enemies". Registration and continental breakfast are at 8am, with Mass at 9am followed by Oblate presentations. To pre-register, visit [www.oblates.org](http://www.oblates.org).

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Today's readings talk about the healing power of God. Allow God to work and move in your marriage; attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend and let God strengthen, renew and rekindle your relationship. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is **April 20-22**. An early application is highly recommended. For more information and to apply online, visit our website at [wwmes4.org](http://wwmes4.org), or call 301-541-7007, or email [wwme@whalenfamily.com](mailto:wwme@whalenfamily.com).

### 2012 ARCHDIOCESAN

#### WOMEN'S RETREAT: BLESSED ARE YOU

Join women from across the Archdiocese on Saturday, **March 24** from 8am to 3:15pm at St. Mark the Evangelist Church (7501 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD) for Mass with Cardinal Wuerl, presentations, small group discussion, Eucharistic adoration, confession and opportunities to build up your library at the spiritual exhibit hall. Contact: Sarah Yaklic at 301-853-4559 or visit [www.adw.org/conferences](http://www.adw.org/conferences). The cost is \$20, lunch included.

**MASS INTENTIONS****Sunday, February 19**

5:30pm (vigil) –

Tom O'Donnell

7am – Poor Souls in Purgatory

8:30am – Jose Antonio Romero

10am – All Parishioners

11:30am – Sean Ferry

1pm – Vianella Veras Guichardo

5:30pm – Roger DeTrano

**Monday, February 20**

8am – José Maria Urribarri

12:10pm – Adolfo Reyes

**Tuesday, February 21**

7am – Josephine Klug Kuhn

8am – Luisa Soto

12:10pm – Amelia Cashman

5:30pm – Teresa Doyle

**Wednesday, February 22**

7am – Dominga Lomero

8am – Numancia Sardina

11am – Philip G. Chialvi

12:10pm – Robert M. Moore, K.M.

1:15pm – Lawrence Swetz

5:30pm – Marie Riocreux

7pm – Louis Bertrand Remlin (living)

**Thursday, February 23**

7am – Patrick Bradley

8am – Joaquin Lomero

12:10pm – Jim O'Sullivan

5:30pm – Thanksgiving to

Sts. Joseph &amp; Anthony

**Friday, February 24**

7am – Jean Elias (living)

8am – All Souls

12:10pm – Lauro Eugenio

5:30am – Mela Francisco

**Saturday, February 25**

8am – Thanksgiving

12:10pm – Jaime Francisco

5:30pm – Elizabeth C. Cotter

**Sunday, February 26**

7am – Joanna Taracha

8:30am – Jose Lopez

10am – Theresa Appolito

11:30am – All Parishioners

1pm – Felice Ariano

5:30pm – John Seberowski

*To arrange a Mass intention, speak to our receptionist in the Rectory. There is no fee but an offering is customary. Intentions are reserved in advance so particular dates may be unavailable.*

**MARRIAGES**

Couples who are interested in celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage at the Cathedral are encouraged to visit the parish website to review our guidelines for weddings. The next step is to call the Rectory at 202-347-3215 and ask for the priest of your choice or the priest on duty, who can speak to you about marriage preparation and the possibility of scheduling your wedding ceremony 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.

**BAPTISMS**

Parents who wish to have their child baptized at the Cathedral should contact the Baptismal Coordinator at the Rectory at 202-347-3215 x555. Parents are encouraged to make contact with us **at least six (6) months in advance** of a desired baptismal date, at which time they may ask for the priest of their choice to perform the Baptism. This early contact enables parents to be scheduled for the necessary sacramental formation session before the child's baptism and allows time for sponsors to obtain letters from their parish pastor.

**CATHEDRAL TOURS**

Visitors are invited to schedule a guided tour of the Cathedral or to do a self-guided tour using the color brochures available at the inside entrance to the Cathedral. Guided tours are given free of charge. Donations to the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle are always appreciated and may be given to your tour guide or to our receptionist at the Rectory. To schedule a guided tour, contact us at 202-347-3215 x512 or 202-587-5143 or mhurley@stmatthewscathedral.org.

*Please check our parish website regularly for updates on liturgies and events at St. Matthew's!*

**[www.stmatthewscathedral.org](http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org)**

**YOUNG ADULTS**

**C†YA LENTEN AFTERNOON OF REFLECTION – Sunday, March 11 – 3 to 5:30pm - Cathedral (meet in Our Lady's Chapel on left of nave)** this mini-retreat will include guided meditation, the rosary, time for personal prayer, and the opportunity for confession. Contact Tiffany at tiffanyawaits@yahoo.com for more information

**C†YA SPRING KICKBALL TEAM – Sundays, April 22 to June 17 – 2 to 3pm – the Washington Monument (17th St NW & Constitution)**

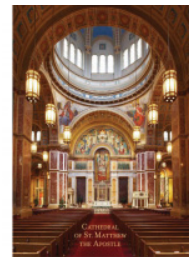
Join the Cathedral Young Adults team in the WAKA DC Monument kickball league. The cost is \$65 per person, which covers a team shirt, equipment, park fees, and league party. No athletic ability required – we're just out to have fun! Contact: co-captain Brandon at bjameshines@gmail.com for details on how to register.

**GIFT ITEMS**

St. Matthew's is pleased to offer a 48-page souvenir book on our beautiful Cathedral church written by Richard Schmidt and Claudia Rousseau, with Joseph Carey, Nancy McKinley and Elizabeth Sullivan. It features the Cathedral's history, art and architecture vividly portrayed through photographs by local photographer, Neil Greentree.

Also available are sets of six note cards picturing the art of the Cathedral, boxed sets of ten Christmas cards featuring St. Matthew's Crèche, Christmas ornaments and several CD recordings of the Cathedral's *Schola Cantorum*.

Items may be purchased in the Rectory during office hours. Unless otherwise indicated in this bulletin, the Rectory is open Monday through Thursday from 9am until 8pm and Friday through Sunday from 9am until 4pm. You also may order items by contacting us at 202-347-3215 x 517 or at gharrington@stmatthewscathedral.org. MasterCard and Visa are accepted.





## ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

5001 EASTERN AVENUE  
POST OFFICE BOX 29260  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

February 13, 2012

Dear Friends,

Last Friday President Obama attempted to respond to the strong objections that have been raised by the Catholic Church and other faith communities to the Department of Health and Human Services' unprecedented mandate that would force religious institutions, in violation of their religious beliefs, to provide and pay for abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives and sterilization. Unfortunately, the "accommodation" that the President announced still presents grave moral concerns and continues to violate our constitutionally protected [religious liberty](#).

The administration's proposal continues to involve needless government intrusion in the internal governance of religious institutions, particularly in the definition of who is and who is not a religious employer. Despite last month's [unanimous Supreme Court decision](#) upholding the right of religious institutions to choose whom they appoint to teach their faith and carry out their mission, the administration remains unwavering in its attempt to assert control in matters of religion. Our Catholic schools, social service organizations, hospitals and universities are no less Catholic than our churches, but apparently, these institutions are not considered to be Catholic enough to meet the definition required by the HHS mandate for a religious exemption.

As for the insurance-related provisions themselves, the federal mandate remains essentially unchanged. The only "fix" offered by the President was to propose that insurance companies, instead of religious institutions directly, be required to cover procedures and products they find objectionable at no cost in their insurance policies. Regardless of how it is characterized, shifting the cost of these drugs and procedures to insurance companies does not make their requirement any less objectionable or lessen the infringement on our religious liberty and rights of conscience.

For example, President Obama's announcement does not provide any accommodation for the Archdiocese of Washington. Like many large organizations, both for-profit and non-profit, this archdiocese does not purchase group health insurance from insurance companies. In order to provide insurance consistent with our religious beliefs, our health benefit plan is a self-insured plan that extends coverage to 3,600 employees. This means that the archdiocese is the insurer and the archdiocese covers all claim costs. There is no insurance company involved. Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the HHS mandate, self-insured organizations like ours are treated the same as regular insurance providers. This means that like Aetna or Blue Cross, the archdiocese

and other self-insured religious organizations would be required to both provide and pay for drugs and procedures we consider morally wrong in our employee health plans.

Even for religious institutions who are employers and who purchase group health insurance from insurance companies, the problem created by the mandate remains unresolved. Those institutions will still be compelled to purchase insurance policies that provide free abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives and sterilization. Since these additional drugs and procedures will be automatically provided by the insurer by virtue of the insurance policy (even though not expressly listed in the policy), it is no response to our moral concerns to say that religious employers will not have to pay for them because their insurance companies will. Catholic institutions will be forced to pay for and maintain policies that enable their employees to receive insurance coverage of products and procedures that violate our religious convictions.

At this point, it appears that nothing has really changed. Religious employers are still being compelled to provide insurance plans that offer free abortion-inducing drugs, sterilizations and contraceptives in violation of their religious freedom.

What is at stake here is a question of human freedom. The authors of the Bill of Rights enshrined freedom of religion as our nation's first and founding principle. We should not be reduced to petitioning the government for rights that the Constitution already guarantees. The only complete solution to the problem that this mandate poses for religious liberty is for Congress to pass legislation to protect our freedom. The Respect for Rights of Conscience Act is one of several bills that have been introduced for this very purpose.

We cannot become complacent or allow ourselves to be distracted by incomplete proposals presented as definitive solutions. The [Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty](#) is working on a formal response and action steps. In the weeks and months ahead, please continue to pray and share this information with others so that we may reverse the effects of this misguided regulation.

In the hope that this information is helpful and with every good wish, I am

Faithfully in Christ,

Donald Cardinal Wuerl  
Archbishop of Washington



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

## ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

5001 EASTERN AVENUE  
POST OFFICE BOX 29260  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017

Enero 30, 2012

Queridos amigos,

El 20 de enero de 2012, el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de Estados Unidos, con el visto bueno del presidente Barack Obama, emitió un nuevo mandato federal haciendo que la cobertura de medicamentos abortivos, esterilización y todos los anticonceptivos aprobados por la FDA, sea obligatoria prácticamente para todos los empleadores, incluidas las instituciones fundamentadas en la fe.

¿Qué es lo que está al centro de la preocupación de los obispos católicos, y de otros, acerca de esta acción de la administración Obama? ¿Cómo puede afectar esto a las instituciones de la Arquidiócesis de Washington?

El nuevo mandato es la primera regulación federal en la historia de nuestra nación en exigir a todas las instituciones fundamentadas en la fe que paguen por la cobertura de medicamentos abortivos, esterilización y anticonceptivos. La gente ya era libre de utilizar este tipo de productos y procedimientos ampliamente disponibles. Hasta este mandato, los empleadores podían elegir si deseaban o no cubrirlos y los individuos podían elegir si deseaban buscar empleadores que pagaran por ellos. Ahora casi todos los que proporcionan seguro deben incluir abortivos, esterilización y anticonceptivos. Prácticamente todas las instituciones católicas e individuos, tendrán que pagar por esa cobertura. Obligarlos a proporcionar estos servicios viola tanto la convicción de nuestra fe como nuestra libertad.

En su defensa de la regulación del HHS, el gobierno ha hecho caso omiso de la Primera Enmienda de la Constitución de Estados Unidos y ha negado a los católicos la libertad más fundamental, la libertad religiosa. A pesar de la petición de la Iglesia por una exención religiosa más amplia, del que se hicieron eco muchas otras religiones, el gobierno se negó a modificar la actual exención del reglamento que es limitada a grupos religiosos que contratan y sirven básicamente a personas de su propia fe. La mayoría de las iglesias e instituciones dirigidas por las iglesias no califican para la exención por su propia apertura de servir al bien común de la sociedad y a todas las personas, independientemente de su credo.

Incluso aquellos que pueden estar en desacuerdo con la enseñanza de la Iglesia sobre la santidad de la vida humana, como los consejos editoriales de *The Washington Post* y del *New York Daily News*, han declarado que el gobierno no tiene por qué obligar a las instituciones religiosas a patrocinar y pagar por procedimientos y drogas que violan sus creencias.

¿Qué pasará si este mandato se mantiene? Nuestras escuelas, hospitales y organizaciones caritativas serán colocados en la posición insostenible de tener que elegir entre violar la ley civil o abandonar nuestras creencias religiosas.

Por ejemplo, el mandato le permitirá a una escuela católica una de tres opciones: (1) violar sus creencias, al proveer la cobertura de medicamentos y procedimientos que creemos que son inmorales, (2) dejar de prestar cobertura de seguro a todos sus empleados y enfrentar constantes y en última instancia ruinosas multas, o (3) tratar de calificar para la exención, contratando y sirviendo solamente a los católicos.

Una escuela católica simplemente no puede enseñar con eficacia la doctrina católica mientras que proporciona a sus profesores -y en el caso de las universidades católicas también a sus estudiantes- seguros que violan sus propias creencias. Tampoco debería tener que negar a sus empleados acceso a atención de salud asequible, un derecho humano básico. Ni podría permitirse el lujo de pagar multas abrumadoras. Ni debería ser forzada a cerrar sus puertas a los no católicos.

Ya no puede haber duda alguna de que la libertad religiosa en nuestro país está en peligro. Hace apenas unas semanas, la administración Obama argumentó sin éxito ante la Corte Suprema que el gobierno tiene derecho a interferir en la elección de la iglesia de sus ministros. Afortunadamente, la Corte rechazó por unanimidad esta posición radical. Sin inmutarse, el gobierno ha avanzado en otro frente.

Los católicos de todo el país ya están luchando contra este mandato. Periodistas católicos de diferentes tendencias han criticado ampliamente las reglas del HHS como injustas, y los líderes de las principales organizaciones católicas - como la Asociación Católica de Salud, los Servicios Católicos de Socorro, y Caridades Católicas de Estados Unidos - también se han pronunciado en contra de ellas. Mientras tanto, la Comisión Episcopal Especial para la Libertad Religiosa está explorando activamente las opciones para litigar, y las propuestas legislativas para remediar esta injusticia.

Este es el momento de hablar. Este es el tiempo para que nuestras voces sean escuchadas. Por lo tanto, les pido dos cosas. En primer lugar, como una comunidad de fe necesitamos comprometernos a orar para que la sabiduría y la justicia prevalezcan, y la libertad religiosa pueda ser preservada. Sin Dios, no podemos hacer nada; con Dios, nada es imposible. En segundo lugar, les pido que visiten [www.usccb.org/conscience](http://www.usccb.org/conscience), y [www.mdcathcon.org](http://www.mdcathcon.org), para aprender más sobre este asalto a la libertad religiosa y encontrar los recursos necesarios para apoyar legislación que podría revertir los efectos de la decisión de la administración.

Con gratitud por su colaboración en este asunto tan importante, y con mis mejores deseos, quedo de ustedes

Fielmente en Cristo,



Arzobispo de Washington

## Origins of Lent

From the earliest centuries (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>) of the Church's celebration of Easter, particularly in the Eastern Church, there was a strict fast associated with the commemoration of the Paschal feast. This fast (restricted to eating bread with salt and water) occurred on the two days immediately preceding the celebration of the Easter Vigil. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, the fast was extended to a week; later in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century, a three-week period of a less absolute fast began to be observed in churches around Rome beginning with what came to be known as Laetare Sunday.

In the period 354-384, church writings describe a fast that began 40 days before what is now known as Holy Thursday. Thus, this 40 day fasting period officially began on the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Easter. But, from the earliest days of the Church, Sundays had always been excluded from any days set aside for fasting. So, church officials, desiring to maintain the idea of 40 days for fasting, tacked on additional days to compensate. Consequently around the beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, we have the creation of Wednesday as the official beginning of the 40 days of fast. The pope marked this with a solemn procession during which the participants sang the antiphon "Immutemur habitu" (Let us don sackcloth and ashes). Not until the 13<sup>th</sup> century did the imposition of ashes become formalized and added to the liturgy in what we know today as Ash Wednesday.

Fasting in the early church was always accompanied by meetings for prayer and listening to the Word of God. As a result, the period of Lent was a natural time for catechumens to begin their final preparation for baptism at the Easter Vigil and for baptized sinners to complete their period of penance and be returned to the Christian community during a reconciliation liturgy that occurred on Holy Thursday morning. During the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the celebration of the "scrutinies" on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Lent for catechumens began in Rome, but then was de-emphasized throughout the Church until the reforms of Vatican II.

During the 6<sup>th</sup> century, church writings described two different celebrations that occurred on the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent. In Jerusalem, this day was marked by a solemn procession retracing the triumphal entry of Christ and his disciples into Jerusalem, often with palms in hand. In Rome, however, this day was marked by the reading of St. Matthew's account of the passion and death of Jesus. Thus, we have the two titles associated with the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. It was not until later centuries that the Church combined the forms of celebration (procession with palms and reading of the passion) as part of same liturgy, the solemnity of which was revitalized by the Vatican in 1955 and 1970.

Lent, as a defined liturgical period, ends with the celebration of Vespers on Holy Thursday afternoon. Later on this day, the liturgical celebration of the Lord's Supper begins the extended celebration of the Triduum.

- Deacon Bart Merella

## Origin of the Stations of the Cross

Like many of our Catholic devotions, the Stations of the Cross that we know and practice as a form of worship, particularly during Lent, has a long history of development. Many legends exist about the origins of this devotion including one that asserts Mary used to visit daily the scenes of Christ's passion. Stories from the early Church also exist about pilgrims making trips to Jerusalem to visit the sites, but nothing about which sites, how many or in what particular order. Later, there were some attempts to stress the importance of the sites in Jerusalem by granting indulgences to those who visited them, but when is unknown. The earliest resemblance to a defined "Via Crucis" was the 5<sup>th</sup> century construction in Bologna, Italy of connected chapels representing some of the important shrines in Jerusalem.

Beginning in the 1400's, church writings refer to specific groupings in various European locations to represent the geographical sites of the Passion. In some cases, these routes were designed to measure the exact distance between each of the holy sites in Jerusalem. An English pilgrim, William Wey, was the first to use the word "station" when he visited Jerusalem in 1458 and 1462. The first evidence of a particular demarcation of stations was in 1520 when Pope Leo X granted indulgences to a set of sculptures in Antwerp that represented the seven sorrows of Mary. If seven was the number marked by Pope Leo for the stations in the Antwerp cemetery, how did the number 14 come to be? William Wey referred to 14 stations during his journey in Jerusalem; but for at least 200 hundred years, the number varied from 19 to as high as 37.

The determination of the precise number of stations and their identities developed during the 16<sup>th</sup> century when church officials began to include image representations of the outdoor stations inside parish churches and cathedrals. It was not until 1731, when Clement XII assigned indulgences to stations was the number set at 14. The inclusion of stations in every church became essentially a mandate from Benedict XIV in 1742. It should also be noted that the special indulgence assigned to the Stations was later extended by Clement XIV to separate crucifixes for the benefit of the sick, imprisoned and those at sea who could not visit the stations in a church.

Because this is a form of private devotion, the Church does not prescribe a specific format for praying or meditating on the Stations. Consequently, different booklets have been published to assist one in praying or meditating on the Stations in a particular way. Frequently, this private devotion is prayed in a public way, especially during Lent. A recent and increasingly popular form of praying the Stations is that composed by Pope John Paul II known for its focus on scriptural texts.

During this period of Lent when we are mindful of the sacrifice of Jesus, all are encouraged to pray or meditate on the Stations of the Cross, whether privately or publicly when scheduled. **At the cathedral, the Stations are prayed publicly each Friday during Lent after the 5:30pm Mass (approximately 6:00pm) and on Good Friday at 7pm.**

- Deacon Merella

# THIRSTING FOR LIVING WATER

## Parish Lenten Day of Recollection

*with Sister Patricia A. Parachini, SNJM, DMin*

***“... those who drink of the water that I will give them  
will never be thirsty...” (John 4:14).***

Lent is the forty-day liturgical season during which the Church invites all Christians to renewal and reconciliation. Through the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we journey with our Lord Jesus to the Cross on Good Friday and to His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Join us the morning of Saturday, **February 25** for our annual Lenten Day of Recollection. Sister Patricia A. Parachini, SNJM, DMin returns to lead us in prayer and reflection on the gospel passage of John 4:5-42, the Woman at the Well, which has a long tradition of being proclaimed in the Church during the season of Lent. You will have the space and time to get in touch with your thirsts, your longings, your deepest desires, which we, in faith, believe only Jesus, the One who gives us eternal life, can satisfy. The morning will include presentations by Sister Parachini, time for private reflection, opportunities to mingle, and Mass to close our time together.

Prepare to proclaim Christ's glorious Resurrection this Easter by joining us for our annual Lenten Day of Recollection!

**JOIN US! ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2012**

**TIME: 9:00AM – 1:00PM (includes 12:10pm Mass)**

**PLACE: NORTH CONFERENCE ROOM**

*Please register no later than Sunday, February 19 to [hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org)  
(subject line: Lenten Day of Recollection RSVP) or 202-347-3215, x530.*

FREEWILL OFFERINGS WILL BE GRATEFULLY COLLECTED FOR THE SUPPORT OF  
FAITH FORMATION EVENTS AND PROGRAMS AT ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL.

*Sister Parachini, a Sister of the Holy Names, holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from The Catholic University of America. She has more than forty years of experience as a pastoral theologian, educator, and spiritual director. She currently teaches at Washington Theological Union.*



**CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE**

1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW • Washington DC 20036

(202) 347-3215 • [www.stmatthewscathedral.org](http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org)

Metro: Red Line to Farragut North (L Street exit)

Parking: limited street parking in front of Cathedral or \$5 flat fee in public garage next to Cathedral

# Simple Lenten Meals

## SOUP \* BREAD \* WATER



## Every Friday during Lent

FOLLOWING THE 5:30pm MASS AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL, NORTH CONFERENCE ROOM

The Social Justice Committee invites you to join us for the sustenance of food and fellowship. Donations collected each week will help support a different DC-based charity.

**February 24<sup>th</sup>: Mary House**

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>: L'Arche Community of Greater Washington**

**March 9<sup>th</sup>: Spanish Catholic Center**

**March 16<sup>th</sup>: Northwest Center**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Prison Outreach Ministry**

**March 30<sup>th</sup>: Hogar San Francisco de Asís (Home of St. Francis of Assisi),  
in Chaclacayo, Perú**



# Cenas Simples de Cuaresma

## SOPA \* PAN \* AGUA



## Cada viernes durante la Cuaresma

DESPUES DE LA MISA DE LAS 5:30 DE LA TARDE Y EL VIA CRUCIS  
EN LA CATEDRAL DE SAN MATEO, SALON DEL NORTE,

El Comité de Justicia Social les invita a que se unan con nosotros para compartir una cena simple en confraternidad. Las donaciones que se reciban cada semana, serán entregadas a diferentes caridades del área de Washington.

**Febrero 24: Casa de María**

**Marzo 2: Comunidad L'Arche de Washington**

**Marzo 9: Centro Católico Hispano**

**Marzo 16: Centro del Noroeste**

**Marzo 23: Ministerio de las personas en la cárcel**

**Marzo 30: Hogar San Francisco de Asís, en Chaclacayo, Perú**





# Lenten Lecture Series

## Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle

### **PRAY ALL — WAYS**

*The three traditional pillars of Lenten observance are almsgiving, fasting, and prayer.*

*In his First Letter to the Thessalonians, Saint Paul exhorts: “**Pray without ceasing**” (5:17).*

*This year’s Lenten Lecture Series will focus on cultivating a richer attitude and practice of prayer in our daily lives.*

Week 1 (Wednesday, February 29 or Thursday, March 1)

#### **PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

**Dr. Edward McCormack**, Chair & Associate Professor of Spirituality,  
Washington Theological Union [Wednesday lecture]

**Br. Edward Ogden, OSFS**, Director of Formation, DeSales Hall,  
Oblates of St. Francis de Sales [Thursday lecture]

Week 2 (Wednesday, March 7 or Thursday, March 8)

#### **PRAYING TOGETHER**

**Deacon Augustine Marie Reisenauer, OP**, Dominican House of Studies

Week 3 (Wednesday, March 14 or Thursday, March 15)

#### **PRAYING ALONE**

**Mr. Louis J. Milone**, Director of Adult Faith Formation, St. John the Baptist Church, Silver Spring MD

Week 4 (Wednesday, March 21 or Thursday, March 22)

#### **PERSONALITY AND PRAYER**

**Ms. Heather Kinney**, Director of Faith Formation, Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle

Week 5 (Wednesday, March 28 or Thursday, March 29)

#### **PRAYING BETTER**

**Mrs. Lolita Jardeleza**, Prayer Minister, Academy of the Holy Cross, Kensington MD

Wednesday lectures: 12:45pm to 1:45pm

Thursday lectures: 7pm to 8pm

All lectures will be held in the North Conference Room.

Follow the directional signs to the lectures. Lectures are free and open to the public. Join us for any or all.

No RSVP necessary.

Questions? Email [hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org) or call 202-347-3215, x530.

Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle  
1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW • Washington DC 20036  
202-347-3215 • [www.stmatthewscathedral.org](http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org)

Metro: Red Line to Farragut North (L Street exit)

Parking: limited metered street parking or public garage next to Cathedral  
(\$10 per hour before 4pm-\$16 daily max or \$5 flat fee after 4pm)

**10:30 to 11:45am • Saturday, March 3**

**The Sacrifice of Abraham**  
***Brother Augustine Marie Reisenauer, OP***

Genesis 22 presents the moving saga of Abraham's journey in obedience to sacrifice his most precious treasure, his only beloved son of the promise, Isaac. With the contributions of commentators -- rabbinic and patristic, medieval and modern -- this presentation gradually walks along with our father in faith to investigate the meaning of struggle and sacrifice, the stance of readiness and obedience, and the agony and the ecstasy of striving to prefer nothing to the love of God. The lesson of Abraham instructs us how God not only graciously champions in man but also generously outcompetes man through the sacrifice of his own only beloved Son. As with Abraham, despite the difficulties, God encourages us along the road of faithful discipleship.

*Our Dominican Deacons Present:*  
**“PORTRAITS OF DISCIPLESHIP  
IN SCRIPTURE”**

**10:30 to 11:45am • Saturday, March 17**

**The Beloved Disciple**  
**Brother Albert Duggan, OP**

The Gospel of John tells us of “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” Though he is never named in Scripture, this beloved disciple is traditionally identified as the author of the Gospel itself. Among Jesus' followers, he holds a special position—sitting next to Jesus at the Last Supper, standing with Mary at the foot of the cross, and running to discover the empty tomb on Easter Sunday. Reflecting on the Gospel and St. John's other writings, this presentation will consider the essence of discipleship, an intimacy with Jesus that bears fruit in the disciple's own life and overflows to the lives of those around him.

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*Consider staying for our 12:10pm Mass afterward.*

*Please bring a Bible and your own morning beverage.  
Homemade coffee cake will be provided.*

**NO RSVP NECESSARY & NO COST TO ATTEND!**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Contact: Heather Kinney, Director of Faith Formation, [hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org)