

TODAY'S READINGS

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." (John 12:24)

Have you ever seen a seed germinate? While it is in the soil, the skin encasing it splits open. Next, the seed itself splits in two, and the stem and root unfurl. Gradually, the seed grows smaller as it nourishes the new plant.

Eventually, the seed disappears altogether. If you were to look at the plant after a while, you probably wouldn't be able to tell what the seed looked like.

What a wonderful image this is of the spiritual life! Like a patient farmer, God is always planting seeds in our hearts, waiting for them to "die" so that they can bear fruit. Each season has its own seeds that need to die—parts of us that need to break open so that new life can come forth. As children, we may be bearing the fruit of obedience and trust.

As young married couples, we may be learning to pour our lives out as we start a new family. And as seasoned adults, our fruit may be that of more active involvement in our community or church.

Again, like a wise gardener, only God knows which seeds need to sprout for each season. It's no use trying to double guess him. And there's no need. After all, he knows what he is doing!

Try something different in your prayer today. Look back over your life, and try to identify times when a "seed" had to die so that God could bring something new into your life. Ask yourself: "Well, I survived, didn't I? And I'm better off for having gone through it, aren't I?" Now, having reviewed your past, see if there is something that God wants to do in your present. He is never finished with us! There's always more that he wants to give us—if only we will let him bring life out of death!

"Lord, I want to bear fruit for your kingdom! Help me to shed my comfortable shell so that I can grow in ways even I can't imagine!"

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

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 25th Jer 31:31-34/ Heb 5:7-9 / Jn 12:20-33

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Monday 26th Is 7:10-14; 8:10 / Heb 10:4-10 / Lk 1:26-38

The Annunciation of the Lord

Tuesday 27th Nm 21:4-9 / Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday 28th Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95 / Jn 8:31-42

Thursday 29th Gn 17:3-9 / Jn 8:51-59

Friday 30th Jer 20:10-13 / Jn 10:31-42

Saturday 31st Ez 37:21-28 / Jn 11:45-56

Sunday 1st Mk 11:1-10 / Is 50:4-7 / Phil 2:6-11 /

Passion Sunday

Mk 14:1-15:47

LAS LECTURAS DE HOY

Cuando vemos un grano de trigo nos parece inactivo, estático, pero sabemos que en su interior hay un principio de vida. La única manera de hacer que esa vida se manifieste es plantar la semilla. Silenciosamente, brota la vida y produce mucho fruto.

San Juan relaciona este ejemplo de la semilla con la "hora" de Jesús, aquella hora hacia la cual se dirigía toda la vida de Cristo; una hora sobre la cual Jesús tenía control absoluto: la hora de su glorificación.

Cristo quiso obedecer la voluntad del Padre, y por eso la abundante cosecha que Él produciría era nada menos que la salvación para toda la humanidad.

Este pasaje no es solo una exhortación a la negación de uno mismo. Considerarlo así sería no entender la necesidad absoluta que había de la muerte de Cristo. Aparte del sacrificio total del Señor, no habría mayor fruto (Juan 15,4). La clave del fruto es reconocer que, como creyentes, morimos junto con Jesús cuando fuimos bautizados.

El mismo Jesús nos exhorta a seguir sus pasos. San Bernardo (1090-1153), reflexionando sobre el llamado de Jesús, escribió: "Qué pocos son, Señor, los que quieren seguirte... Todos quieren, en realidad, gozar de tu presencia, pero no hasta el punto de seguir tu ejemplo; quieren reinar contigo, pero no sufrir contigo" (Tratado sobre el Cantar de los Cantares, Sermón 21,2).

Jesús nos escogió para que diéramos fruto (Juan 15,16). Debemos recordar esta verdad cuando llegue nuestra hora, y el Espíritu nos lleve a la cruz para depositar ante ella el egoísmo, el orgullo, los temores y los resentimientos. Si aceptamos la voluntad del Padre, conoceremos la vida de la resurrección que nos ofrece Jesús y estaremos preparados para la hora de la glorificación.

"Señor, perdónanos por nuestro egoísmo y por nuestra resistencia a la negación propia. Concédenos tu fortaleza, Señor, para que tomemos nuestra cruz con amor y devoción, para que un día lleguemos a resucitar contigo."

Escogida con el permiso de *La Palabra Entre Nosotros*, Vol. 31, Número 4: Cuaresma 2012.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo 25 Jer 31:31-34 / Heb 5:7-9 / Jn 12:20-33

Quinto domingo de Cuaresma

Lunes 26 Is 7:10-14; 8:10 / Heb 10:4-10 / Lc 1:26-38

La Anunciación del Señor

Martes 27 Ez Núm 21:4-9 / Jn 8:21-30

Miércoles 28 Da 3:14-20,91-92,95 / Jn 8:31-42

Jueves 29 Gé 17:3-9 / Jn 8:51-59

Viernes 30 Jer 20:10-13 / Jn 10:31-42

Sábado 31 Ez 37:21-28 / Jn 11:45-56

Domingo 1 Mc 11:1-10 / Is 50:4-7 / Fil 2:6-11 /

Domingo de Ramos

Mc 14:1-15:47

ADOPT-A-FAMILY EASTER GIFT CARD DRIVE – Today, **March 25** is the last day that gift cards and donations for our Adopt-A-Family Program will be collected at Mass. You may drop off your \$20-\$25 Giant or Safeway gift card at the Cathedral before or after Mass this weekend or at the Rectory on **March 26 or 27**. Thank you for your generosity!

LIVING LENT 2012 ✝

PRAY ALL - WAYS

Don't miss Mrs. Lolita Jardeleza, Prayer Minister at Academy of the Holy Cross in Kensington, MD, this Wednesday or Thursday speaking to us on "Praying Better" (see the Lecture Series flyer).

WEDNESDAY EVENING CONFESSIONS

Each Catholic parish in the Archdiocese of Washington and the Diocese of Arlington has confessions available every Wednesday of Lent from 6:30 to 8pm. At St. Matthew's, Wednesday confessions will be heard in English and Spanish from 6:30 to 8pm in addition to our regularly scheduled confession times (weekdays, 11am-Noon and Saturdays, 4-5pm). Plan now to come this Wednesday, **March 28** and experience forgiveness and reconciliation with the Father through the Son!

FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS & SIMPLE LENTEN MEAL

The Stations of the Cross in the form adopted by Pope John Paul II will be prayed in English this Friday, **March 30** at 6pm, immediately following the 5:30pm Mass. Join us afterwards for a Simple Lenten Meal in the North Conference Room—this week's meal will be organized by the Parish Pastoral Council and the Liturgy Committee, who will collect alms to benefit the Home of St. Francis of Assisi, an orphanage in Choclacayo, Peru. The speakers will be parishioners who went on a mission to serve at the Home, Patricia Abad and Olivia Crosby, accompanied by Pam Erwin and Karin Quiroga. All are welcome for all or any part of this evening of prayer, fellowship and almsgiving!

SCRUTINIES FOR THE ELECT

The season of Lent coincides with the Purification and Enlightenment phase of the RCIA process. During this phase, our members of the Elect and our Candidates are called to intensify their prayer lives and discern more deeply their desire to join the Church. As the larger parish community, we are called to help them develop their relationship with God and the Church and to pray for them. The celebration of the Scrutinies, which will conclude at the 11:30am Mass on this fifth Sunday of Lent, **March 25**, is an important part of the Purification and Enlightenment phase. During the Scrutinies with our Elect, we hear from the Year A cycle of lectionary readings. We look within ourselves to find anything that keeps us from Christ and then look to Christ to heal those weaknesses and to strengthen us as we face further temptations. Please keep our eight members of the Elect in your prayers.

FORTY DAYS FOR LIFE

40 Days for Life asks you to pray, fast, and be a presence outside the downtown Planned Parenthood facility (1108 16th Street, NW). To sign up for an hour, email 40daysforlifedc@gmail.com or visit www.40daysforlife.com/washington.

HOLY WEEK

We invite you to join your parish family and friends at our Holy Week liturgies and services. Brochures listing the full schedule are available in the pew racks and in baskets at the Cathedral doors. View the Holy Week schedule online at www.stmatthewscathedral.org.

PALM SUNDAY

Next Sunday, **April 1**, is Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, the beginning of Holy Week. **Donald Cardinal Wuerl** will celebrate the 10am Mass in English, preceded at 9:45am by a Blessing of Palms on the steps of the Cathedral. We invite all parishioners and friends to arrive by 9:45am for the blessing. **Bishop Francisco González** also will be with us as celebrant of the 1pm Mass in Spanish.

CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass for the Archdiocese of Washington will be celebrated at St. Matthew's Cathedral on Monday, **April 2** at 7pm. **Donald Cardinal Wuerl** will be the celebrant at this very special Mass during which priests of the Archdiocese will renew their ordination promises and the sacramental oils for the year will be blessed. The Cathedral will close after the 12:10pm Mass and reopen at 6pm. All are welcome.

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE & OTHER CONFESSION OPPORTUNITIES

We invite you to experience the love of Christ through the Sacrament of Reconciliation at our Communal Penance Service on Tuesday, **April 3** at 12:10pm (see the *Come Home for Easter* flyer).

Extra confessors will be available from 11am to Noon on Monday and Wednesday of Holy Week and on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Confessions also will be available in English and Spanish on Wednesday of Holy Week from 6:15 to 7pm, before the Tenebrae service.

MINISTERS NEEDED FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGIES

Cathedral Hospitality Ministers greet and welcome visitors, hand out programs, collect the offertory collection, guide lines for Holy Communion and assist those with special needs. To all current and prospective hospitality ministers, please consider serving during Holy Week, at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday. Lenten brochures listing our Holy Week liturgies are available in the pew racks and in baskets at the Cathedral doors. View the Holy Week schedule online at www.stmatthewscathedral.org. If you can help at any of the liturgies, please email us at Reply@stmatthewscathedral.org.

FAITH FORMATION

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, **April 11**. For more information, contact Heather Kinney at hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org.

REGISTER NOW FOR ADULT CONFIRMATION PREPARATION!

You may still register for St. Matthew's five-week program for active adult Catholics who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation sessions will be held on Thursdays, April 19, 26 and May 3, 10, and 17 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm with a retreat on Saturday, May 19. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 27 (Memorial Day weekend). To register, pick up a registration packet in the Cathedral rectory, or download and print it on the Cathedral website at www.stmatthewscathedral.org.
Questions?
Contact Heather Kinney at hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org.

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

TARJETAS DE REGALO DE PASCUA PARA EL PROGRAMA ADOPTE UNA FAMILIA

Hoy **25 de marzo** es el último día para recoger tarjetas de regalos y donaciones en las misas para el programa Adopte una familia. Puede dejar su tarjeta de \$20- \$25 de Giant o Safeway en la Catedral antes o después de la misa este fin de semana o en la rectoría el **26 o 27 de marzo**. Muchas gracias por su generosidad.

CICLO DE CONFERENCIAS DE CUARESMA

Las reflexiones de Cuaresma de este año toman como base las Siete Palabras que Jesús pronunció desde la cruz; continúan este martes en el salón de conferencias del Oeste.

Semana V: "TODO ESTÁ CUMPLIDO" Martes **27 de marzo** a las 7:00 de la noche

CONFESIONES LOS MIERCOLES 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, tendremos confesiones en inglés y español, exceptuando el Miércoles de Ceniza y Miércoles Santo, además del horario regular de confesiones (lunes a viernes, 11-12 y sábados 4-5 de la tarde).

EL VIA CRUCIS Y CENAS SIMPLES DE CUARESMA

El Vía Crucis, en la forma adaptada por el Papa Juan Pablo II, se rezará en inglés este viernes, **30 de marzo** a las 6:00 de la tarde, inmediatamente después de la misa de 5:30. Acompañenos después para una comida simple de Cuaresma servida en el salón de conferencias del Norte. Esta semana la cena será organizada por el Consejo Parroquial y el Ministerio de Liturgia, las donaciones que se reciban beneficiarán al Hogar San Francisco de Asís, en Chaclacayo, Perú. Patricia Abad y Olivia Crosby feligreses que fueron a la misión para ayudar en este lugar, dirán unas palabras acerca del Hogar.

DOMINGO DE RAMOS

El **1 de abril** es Domingo de Ramos, el **Obispo Francisco González** será el celebrante de nuestra Misa en español a la 1:00 de la tarde. Se distribuirán las palmas antes de la misa.

SERVICIO COMUNITARIO DE LA PENITENCIA "VUELVE A CASA POR PASCUA"

En el sacramento de la Confesión nuestros pecados son perdonados por Dios y renovamos la pureza de nuestro bautismo. Les invitamos a que experimenten el amor de Cristo a través del Sacramento de la Confesión el cual es una forma muy apropiada para expresar el arrepentimiento y la conversión desde el corazón mismo. Por ello y debido a que estamos en el tiempo de Cuaresma, el martes **3 de abril**, ofreceremos un servicio comunitario a las 12:10 del mediodía. Más de 15 sacerdotes, incluyendo sacerdotes de habla hispana y otros idiomas estarán disponibles. Reconozcamos que todos somos pecadores y necesitamos preparar nuestros corazones en esta Cuaresma.

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 15, 22 y 29 de abril; 13 y 20 de mayo a las 9:00 de la mañana en el salón de conferencias del Oeste y tener la partida de bautismo vigente. Último día para inscribirse es el 8 de abril y deben venir a la rectoría.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

NEWS & NOTES

LAST CALL—PARISH VITALITY SURVEY

For those many parishioners randomly invited to participate in our special parish vitality survey, please note that this is the final week to provide your responses. The survey closes on Saturday, **March 31**. If you have mislaid the survey internet link or wish to participate, please contact Deacon Merella at merella@wtu.edu for the internet site location. We thank all those who have thus far participated and look forward to the summary results of the input. We will report to the parish after results are in.

DECORATORS NEEDED!

On Saturday, **April 7** we will decorate the Cathedral for Easter in one session. We need 10-15 volunteers beginning at 10am to prepare flowers and other decorations. RSVP with Fr. Regan at 202-347-3215 or kregan@stmatthewscathedral.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

On Easter Monday, **April 9** and on DC Emancipation Day, Monday, **April 16**, the Rectory offices will be closed. 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.

EASTER FLOWER OFFERING

Each year we try to decorate the Cathedral for Easter in a way that truly reflects the noble simplicity of that holy season. In order to do so again this year, we ask for your support. Please use the envelopes marked "Flower Offering" located in the pews. Thank you for your generosity.

BLESSING OF ENGAGED COUPLES

On Sunday, **May 6** Msgr. Jameson and other St. Matthew's clergy will confer a blessing of engaged couples at the 11:30am Mass. All couples who are scheduled to be married at the Cathedral or are receiving marriage preparation by a member of St. Matthew's clergy are invited to attend and receive the blessing. After the homily, the engaged couples present will be invited into the sanctuary for the blessing, and will return to their seats afterward. Couples planning to attend are asked to send an email to Reply@stmatthewscathedral.org.

JUBILARIAN CELEBRATION

The annual celebration of marriage honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 50+ years will be held Sunday, **June 3** at 2pm, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Cardinal Wuerl will be the celebrant. To register from St. Matthew's, call 202-587-5143 by **April 12**.

CALENDAR

March 25 – April 1

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

The Third Scrutiny for the Elect is celebrated at the 11:30am Mass.

Durante la Misa de 1 de la tarde se conmemorará el martirio del Arzobispo Oscar Romero y el XX aniversario de los acuerdos de paz en El Salvador. A continuación se ofrecerá una recepción en el salón del Norte.

The Cathedral Young Adults meet at 4pm in the East Conference Room.

MONDAY—The Social Justice & Community Services Committee meets at 6:45pm in the West Conference Room.

TUESDAY—Las Reflexiones de Cuaresma continúan hoy a las 7 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Oeste.

The Faith Formation Committee meets at 6:45pm in the North Conference Room.

WEDNESDAY—The final Lenten lecture is given at 12:45pm in the North Conference Room.

Confessions in English and Spanish are held from 6:30 to 8pm.

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

THURSDAY—The Lenten lecture is repeated at 7pm in the North Conference Room.

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

SUNDAY—**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**. Palms are distributed at all Masses. **Donald Cardinal Wuerl** gives the solemn blessing of palms at 9:45am, followed by Mass at 10am in English.

No hay clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar hasta el domingo 15 de abril.

El **Obispo González** será el celebrante de nuestra Misa en Español a la 1:00 de la tarde.

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

FAITH IN ACTION

SINGLE SERVINGS OF SERVICE

While you may know that St. Matthew's Homeless Ministry provides for the physical and spiritual needs of homeless adults on Monday mornings, our neighbor in Columbia Heights, Christ House, provides 24-hour personal care for sick, homeless people to help break the cycle of homelessness. On Saturday, **March 31** from 7am to 9am we will help prepare breakfast for their patients. Contact Chris at StMattservice@gmail.com to participate.

MASS INTENTIONS**Sunday, March 25**

5:30pm (vigil) – Joseph Shuba
 7am – Joseph & Elizabeth Conway
 8:30am – All Parishioners
 10am – Tom & Carolyn Elstner (living)
 11:30am – Peter Elstner (living)
 1pm – Manuel Ordoñez
 5:30pm – Vincenta Jayme Matzen

Monday, March 26

7am – Dee Roberge
 8am – Joselito Damasco (living)
 12:10pm – Doris Gallagher
 5:30pm – Patrick S. Bergin

Tuesday, March 27

7am – William A. Maio
 8am – Brigitte Kekeh
 12:10pm – Mercer T. Bonta
 5:30pm – Anne Bachi (living)

Wednesday, March 28

7am – Katia & Peter Higgins (living)
 8am – Mrs. Marie Bundoc
 12:10pm – David Pulliam
 5:30pm – Horatio Morales, Jr.

Thursday, March 29

7am – Poor Souls in Purgatory
 8am – Virginia Azarcon (living)
 12:10pm – Christian Jock (living)
 5:30pm – Louis Hector Do Sacramento

Friday, March 30

7am – Lawrence A. Mora (living)
 8am – Poor Souls in Purgatory
 12:10pm – Lamberto Santos
 5:30am – Jean Alexander
 & Family (living)

Saturday, March 31

8am – Josephine Klug Kuhn
 12:10pm – Edmond Leddy
 5:30pm – Thomas & Alice Byrnes

Sunday, April 1

7am – Kurt Lawton Packard (living)
 8:30am – Ann Vanston
 10am – Olechowski &
 Niemira Families
 11:30am – Mary Ann &
 Clayton Olson (living)
 1pm – Todos los Feligreses
 5:30pm – Adelaide De Montlaur

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 our Rectory receptionist. To schedule a guided tour, contact us at mhurley@stmatthewscathedral.org or 202-587-5143.



CONSIDER REMEMBERING
 OUR CATHEDRAL PARISH
 IN YOUR WILL.

For more information,
 please call
 Msgr. Jameson.

YOUNG ADULTS**CATHEDRAL YOUNG ADULT (C†YA)****MINISTRY MEET-AND-GREET –**

Sunday, March 25 – 4 to 5pm –

Cathedral East Conference Room –

Come meet other young adults at St. Matthew's, discuss the C†YA ministry, share ideas, and find out how to get involved. Contact Carolyn at cwait.10@gmail.com or Jillian at jillian.mcmahon@gmail.com for more information.

C†YA AT ST. COLUMBA'S PRESCHOOL**GARDEN – Saturday, April 14 –**

9:30am to 12:30pm – St. Columba's

(Tenleytown) – It's Spring, so it's time to get back in the garden! Join the young adults for a morning of service - no skills or equipment required. Contact Carolyn at cwait.10@gmail.com to sign up.

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.



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 has focused on cultivating a richer attitude and practice of prayer in our daily lives.

Our Lenten Lecture Series concludes this week with a talk on

PRAYING BETTER

How can we identify and overcome obstacles in our life of prayer?

How we can strive to trust God’s presence and voice in our life more deeply?

This talk will address the ways in which our prayer can evolve and grow throughout our lifetime.

Join us Wednesday, March 28 or Thursday, March 29

Our speaker is

Mrs. Lolita Jardeleza (Prayer Minister, The Academy of the Holy Cross, Kensington MD)

Lolita Jardeleza has served at The Academy of the Holy Cross, an all-girls high school, since 1979 as theology teacher, campus minister, and now prayer minister, except for the years she taught in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Lolita, who has 11 children, 46 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, is a Secular Franciscan and has belonged to the Teams of Our Lady since 1964.

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 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

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)

Complete series schedule available in Lenten brochure in pew racks

The Faith Formation Committee presents:

FIVE WEEKS ON THE WISDOM BOOKS
OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



Time: 10:30 to 11:45am

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

Dates: Saturdays, April 14, 21, 28 & May 5, 12

Place: East Conference Room

Facilitator: Father Jack Hurley

April 14 – Introduction & Proverbs

April 21 – Job

April 28 – Psalms

May 5 – Ecclesiastes & Song of Songs

May 12 – Sirach & Wisdom

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

Come Home For Easter
Lenten Communal Penance Service
Tuesday, April 3
12:10 p.m.

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson, Homilist



We invite you to experience the love of Jesus Christ through the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** at our Lenten Communal Penance Service.

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 Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Priests from around the Archdiocese will be available for individual confessions in English, Spanish, Italian, German, Polish 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.



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.

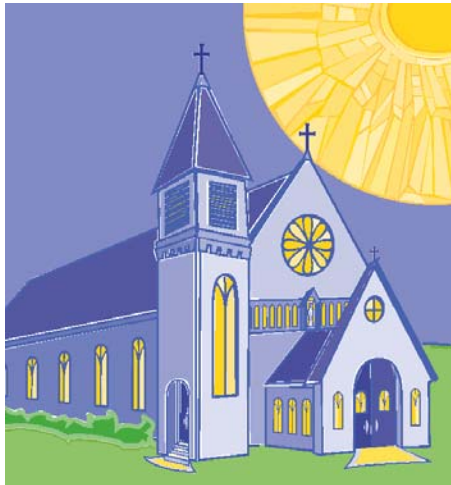
Sign up using the enrollment form on the other side or go online to www.faithdirect.net and use our parish code **DC284** to enroll today!



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

FOR ONLINE ENROLLMENT
USE CHURCH CODE:

DC284

C

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

“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 contribution: \$ _____

(Note: Total contribution amount will be debited on the 4th of the month or the next business day. 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.
The amount indicated will be debited in the month listed as part of the regular monthly transaction.

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"/> Churches in the Developing World	\$ _____	February	<input type="checkbox"/> All Saints Day	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Ash Wednesday	\$ _____	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 Checking Account Debit: Please return this completed form and a voided check to Faith Direct Enrollment.

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

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Print Name as Appears on Card: _____

Signature: _____

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