

TODAY'S READINGS

Crucify him! (Mark 15:13)

St. Francis de Sales once wrote: "I especially commend earnest mental prayer ... upon the life and Passion of our Lord. If you contemplate him frequently in meditation, your whole soul will be filled with him, you will grow in his likeness, and your actions will be molded on his." Francis knew that if we want to see real transformation in our lives, we need to dwell deeply on the cross.

One of the best ways to do this is to imagine yourself in the upper room, in Gethsemane, or on the mount of crucifixion. Picture yourself sitting next to Jesus as he consecrates the bread and wine. What does his voice sound like? What is the expression on his face? Gaze into his eyes as he stands before Pilate and receives his death sentence. Why is he silent? What is going through his mind as he hears the crowd crying out for his crucifixion?

So often we think that what we do is what matters most. It does matter, but what God wants to do in us matters even more. This is why it is so important to contemplate the Passion, opening ourselves to God's grace as we do.

Fr. Karl Rahner, one of the great theologians of Vatican II, once wrote: "We cannot deny that here below man can have experiences of grace that give him a feeling of liberation, open totally new horizons to him, make a deep impression on him, transform him, shaping, even over a long period of time, his deepest Christian attitude." This is what really matters! This is how we can become more like Christ.

God wants to fill us with grace as we ponder the Passion this week. He wants to make a deep impression in our souls and cut us to the heart with his love. So look up to heaven every day this week, and thank him for giving himself to you so fully.

"Jesus, I am amazed at your love. Your mercy leaves me at a loss for words. All I can say is Thank You!"

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

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 1st Mk 11:1-10 / Is 50:4-7 / Phil 2:6-11 / Mk 14:1-15:47

Passion Sunday

Monday 2nd Is 42:1-7 / Jn 12:1-11

Monday of Holy Week

Tuesday 3rd Is 49:1-6 / Jn 13:21-33,36-38

Tuesday of Holy Week

Wednesday 4th Is 50:4-9 / Mt 26:14-25

Wednesday of Holy Week

Thursday 5th Ex 12:1-8,11-14 / 1 Cor 11:23-26 / Jn 13:1-15

Holy Thursday

Friday 6th Is 52:13-53:12 / Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 / Jn 18:1-19:42

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

Saturday 7th, Holy Saturday

Gn 1:1-2:2 / Gn 22:1-18 / Ex 14:15-15:1 / Is 54:5-14 / Is 55:1-11 /

Bar 3:9-15,32-4:4 / Ez 36:16-17a,18-28 / Rom 6:3-11 / Mk 16:1-7

Sunday 8th Act 10:34,37-43 / Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6-8 / Jn 20:1-9

The Resurrection of the Lord

LAS LECTURAS DE HOY

A quello que Jesús dijo a sus apóstoles, "Siento en mi alma una tristeza de muerte. Quédense ustedes aquí, y permanezcan despiertos" (Marcos 14,34), hoy nos lo dice también a nosotros. En esta semana, la más sagrada del cristianismo, Jesús nos invita a entrar en su corazón, y permanecer allí orando con fervor y reflexionando sobre los maravillosos

acontecimientos que presenciaremos en estos próximos días. De esta forma podremos regocijarnos en la victoria pascual de Cristo sobre el pecado y la muerte, y experimentar el gozo de la reconciliación con el Padre.

Al crearnos, Dios quiso que tuviéramos una íntima comunión consigo, pero en el Jardín del Edén, el cumplimiento del deseo divino quedó frustrado porque el hombre decidió desobedecerle. Más tarde, en el huerto de Getsemaní, Jesús pidió que si era posible cumplir la voluntad de Dios sin beber la copa del sufrimiento, que así fuera, pero siendo perfectamente obediente, sumiso y unido al Padre, añadió: "Padre... que no se haga lo que yo quiero, sino lo que quieres tú."

Cristo aceptó la decisión del Padre, aun cuando su humanidad ansiaba otra solución. Por nuestra parte, si permanecemos en Cristo y deseamos de todo corazón cumplir la voluntad del Padre, también recibiremos respuesta a todas nuestras oraciones. Jesús dijo "no se haga lo que yo quiero", y por eso nos puede decir "Si ustedes permanecen unidos a mí... pidan lo que quieran y se les dará"(Juan 15,7).

La condición para recibir respuestas a la oración es permanecer unidos a Cristo y nutrirse de sus palabras, su Cuerpo y su Sangre.

Hoy y todos los días de esta Semana Santa, empiéñese por mantenerse unido Cristo Jesús, para que pueda apreciar mejor el misterio de la salvación. Sea uno con Cristo y conozca la bendición de obedecer la voluntad de Dios.

"Cristo amado, queremos permanecer siempre unidos a Ti para hacer tu voluntad y recibir la paz y el amor que ganaste para nosotros en la cruz."

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



HOLY WEEK

We invite you to join your parish family and friends at our Holy Week liturgies and services. For the full Holy Week schedule, see the flyer in today's bulletin or our brochures in the pew racks and in baskets at the Cathedral doors. View the schedule online at www.stmatthewscathedral.org.

Note that Penn Parking Garage beneath the Cathedral offers extended hours for the Chrism Mass, Tenebræ and the Easter Vigil. For more information, call Michael Amoroso at 443-790-6621.

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

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we are forgiven by God, reunited with the Church, and renewed in our baptismal purity. We invite you to experience the love of Christ through this sacrament at our Communal Penance Service on Tuesday, **April 3** at 12:10pm. More than fifteen priests will be available for confessions in English, Spanish, German, Italian, Polish and American Sign. Join us as we acknowledge that we are all sinners in need of preparing our hearts for Easter.

HOLY WEEK CONFESSIONS

In addition to the Communal Penance Service (above), St. Matthew's offers the following opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Holy Week:

11am - Noon—Monday of Holy Week, Wednesday of Holy Week, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday (no Confessions at regularly scheduled time of 4-5pm on Holy Saturday).

6:15 - 7:15pm—Wednesday of Holy Week (Confessions before the Tenebræ service, which begins at 7:30pm).

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

The daily news reminds us of the violence and instability plaguing the Middle East, but we rarely hear of the shrinking Christian community there, a community that struggles to remain in the land of Christ's birth, death and resurrection. Please help support our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land by giving to the special Good Friday Collection. This Pontifical Collection allows the Franciscans and others to continue caring for Christianity's holiest sites and for God's people in the Holy Land. Please be generous!

NEWS & NOTES

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.

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.

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.

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**.

NEEDED

Piano - After years of nearly daily use, the piano in St. Matthew's choir rehearsal room is on its last legs. If you have a grand piano that is in fine playing condition and holds a tuning well, or if know someone who might, please contact Tom Stehle at 202-587-5141 or tstehle@stmatthewscathedral.org.

Room and board - A female parishioner seeks room and board in exchange for house sitting, companionship of the elderly or tutoring. Contact: 323-600-4066 or americanlawstudent@gmail.com

SEMANA SANTA

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.

CONFESIONES EN SEMANA SANTA

Aquí en San Mateo, además del horario regular de confesiones (lunes – viernes, 11-12 y sábados 4-5 de la tarde) y el Servicio Comunal de Penitencia el martes 3, a las 12 del mediodía con múltiples confesores, **tendremos también confesiones en ambos idiomas: inglés y español, este Miércoles Santo de 6:15 a 7:15 de la tarde, seguido por el servicio de Tenebræ a las 7:30 de la tarde**

COLECTA DEL VIERNES SANTO

Las noticias diarias nos recuerdan de la violencia y la inestabilidad que azota el Medio Oriente, pero rara vez escuchamos de la comunidad cristiana de allí, una comunidad que lucha por permanecer en la tierra donde nació Cristo, murió y resucitó. Por favor apoyen a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en la Tierra Santa, en esta colecta especial del Viernes Santo. Esta colecta Pontificia permite a los franciscanos y otros, continuar el cuidado de los edificios o lugares sagrados del cristianismo y para el pueblo de Dios en Tierra Santa. ¡Por favor sean generosos con su apoyo!

OFRENDA DE

FLORES DE SEMANA SANTA

Cada año hacemos lo posible para decorar la Catedral en una forma que refleje la simplicidad de esta época, Semana Santa. Para hacerlo de nuevo este año, se les pide que nos apoyen con su generosidad. Por favor use los sobres marcados "Flower Offering" localizados en los bancos. Queremos que la Catedral esté bien adornada por tanto, cualquier asistencia que den para la decoración es apreciada.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo 1 Mc 11:1-10 / Is 50:4-7 / Fil 2:6-11 / Mc 14:1-15:47
Domingo de Ramos

Lunes 2 Is 42:1-7 / Jn 12:1-11
Lunes Santo

Martes 3 Is 49:1-6 / Jn 13:21-33,36-38
Martes Santo

Miércoles 4 Is 50:4-9 / Mt 26:14-25
Miércoles Santo

Jueves 5 Éx 12:1-8,11-14 / 1 Cor 11:23-26 / Jn 13:1-15
Jueves Santo

Viernes 6 Is 52:13-53:12 / Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 / Jn 18:1-19:42
Viernes Santo

Sábado 7, Sábado de Gloria

Gn 1:1-2:2 / Gn 22:1-18 / Éx 14:15-15:1 / Is 54:5-14 / Is 55:1-11 / Bar 3:9-15,32-4:4 / Ez 36:16-17a,18-28 / Rom 6:3-11 / Mc 16:1-7

Domingo 8 He 10:34.37-43 / Col 3:1-4 / Jn 20:1-9
Domingo de Pascua de la Resurrección del Señor

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

CONFERENCIA CONJUNTA

RESPECTO A LA VIDA Y MINISTERIO SOCIAL

Acompañe a otros miembros de la parroquia el sábado **14 de abril** de 8:00 de la mañana a 4:00 de la tarde a la conferencia anual - “Fe en busca de entendimiento: construyendo una civilización de vida y amor” Auspiciado por el departamento de Caridades y Justicia de la Arquidiócesis y el departamento de Asuntos por la Vida, en el Centro Convocación de la Escuela Católica DeMatha. Voluntarios de ambos ministerios se unirán para rezar, aprender, y ayudarse el uno al otro a profundizar su entendimiento sobre la dignidad del ser humano y la enseñanza social católica. Registrarse en la Catedral de San Mateo de antemano por \$15 o en la puerta \$ 20. Se incluye almuerzo. Para más información, visite: <http://site.adw.org/conference-2012> o póngase en contacto con el Padre Evelio o Norma Canedo al 202-347-3215, o al socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org.

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. Ultimo día para inscribirse es el 8 de abril y deben venir a la rectoría.

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 el **12 de abril**.

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.

BOOK CLUB: *BURST*

All are welcome to join the St. Matthew's Book Club on Monday, **April 30** when they will discuss *Burst* by Kevin Wells. Wells describes how a life-changing event caused him to turn to God for solace and comfort. This is a beautifully written spiritual memoir that offers comfort to others experiencing difficult times. They will meet in the East Conference Room at 6:45pm. Please contact Paul Zummo at pzummo@gmail.com if you have any questions.

FAITH IN ACTION

ST. MATTHEW'S HOMELESS MINISTRY

Every Monday from 7:30 to 11am, 55 - 70 homeless men and women come for an hour of prayer and Scripture lessons, light breakfast, and distribution of toiletries, underclothing and bag lunches. To contribute food (bread, cheese, lunchmeat, fruit, juice or hard-boiled eggs) for our Homeless Ministry, to be dropped off in the West Conference Room by 7:30am on Mondays, contact James Walsh at jameswalsh1530@gmail.com. Food donors normally sign up to bring donations every other Monday. We continue to distribute socks, underwear and toiletries purchased from Poor Box donations. You can help by giving to the Poor Box or sending donations to the Rectory. Thank you for your support!

RESPECT LIFE & SOCIAL MINISTRY JOINT CONFERENCE

Join your fellow parishioners on Saturday, **April 14** from 8am to 4pm for the Annual Joint Conference, "Faith Seeking Understanding: Building a Civilization of Life and Love," hosted by the Archdiocesan Department for Charity and Justice and the Department of Life Issues, at DeMatha Catholic High School Convocation Center. Volunteers from both ministries will come together to pray, learn, collaborate and support one another as we deepen our understanding of the dignity of the human person and Catholic social teaching. Register under St. Matthew's Cathedral in advance for \$15 or at the door for \$20. Lunch is included. For more information, visit: <http://site.adw.org/conference-2012> or contact Fr. Evelio or Norma Canedo at 202-347-3215 or socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org.

VOCATIONS

CALLING ALL RUNNERS, WALKERS AND SUPPORTERS!

Once again, St. Matthew's will organize a team to take part in Run for Vocations, the yearly campaign that raises money for seminarians. Although the Marine Corps Marathon and 10km are not until October, there are lots of related events and voluntary training runs happening in Spring and Summer. If you are interested in potentially running, walking or supporting, please email Krista at kristatuomi@gmail.com.

YOUNG ADULTS

C†YA SPRING KICKBALL TEAM - Last Chance!

Sundays, April 22 to June 17 – 2 to 3pm – the Washington Monument (17th St NW & Constitution) Sign up now for Cathedral Young Adults team in the WAKA DC Monument kickball league - registration closes in the next week or as soon as slots fill. The cost is \$65 per person to cover your team shirt, equipment, park fees, and league party. Contact co-captain Brandon at bjameshines@gmail.com on how to register.

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 cawait.10@gmail.com to sign up.

MASS INTENTIONS**Sunday, April 1**

5:30pm (vigil) – Thomas & Alice Byrnes

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

Monday, April 2

7am – Francis Fitzmaurice

8am – Poor Souls in Purgatory

12:10pm – Donald Amidon (living)

Tuesday, April 3

7am – Thanksgiving

8am – Phyllis Dixon Francis & family (living)

5:30pm – Kathleen Collins

Wednesday, April 4

7am – Thanksgiving

8am – Phyllis Dixon Francis & Family (living)

12:10pm – Moises Lopez

5:30pm – Msgr. Peter Magee (living)

Thursday, April 5

12:10pm – Thanksgiving

5:30pm – Mr. & Mrs. John Kilcoyne (living)

Sunday, April 8

7am – Judith Loth (living)

8:30am – Mr. & Mrs.

Edward Dowd (living)

10am – Joseph & Carolyn Prucnal

11:30am – Margaret & Paul Kemp (living)

1pm – Josephine Klug Kuhn

5:30pm – Lauren & Joe Rogers (living)

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.

VISITS & PILGRIMAGES

Individuals, families and groups from around the country and around the world visit the Cathedral to join us in prayer, at Mass or to celebrate Mass in one of our chapels. We invite you to plan a visit or pilgrimage to our Cathedral—all are welcome. Once you have a date in mind, let us know so we can arrange to accommodate you. 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



CATHEDRAL OF
ST. MATTHEW
THE APOSTLE

CONSIDER REMEMBERING
OUR CATHEDRAL PARISH
IN YOUR WILL.

For more information,
please call
Msgr. Jameson.

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.

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 gharrington@stmatthewscathedral.org or 202-347-3215. MasterCard and Visa are accepted.

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.

Passion (Palm) Sunday and the Paschal Triduum

Introduction. In this holiest of weeks, the summit of the liturgical year [introduced by Passion Sunday], the liturgical celebrations draw us more deeply into the mystery of salvation—the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. In particular, the visible ritual actions (e.g. washing of the feet) are not attempts to mimic the actions of Jesus. Rather we recall and celebrate the fundamental mysteries of our Christian faith as expressed in its central stories (the passion readings), its symbols (the bread, wine, fire, water and oil) and its ritual actions (feet washing, prostrating, venerating, immersing and anointing). We do this in one unending, continuous set of liturgies (the Triduum) that begins on Thursday evening and ends gloriously with the Saturday evening and Sunday celebrations. **These days are an eschatological celebration—looking to the future that fulfills the past, the *Omega* of the *Alpha*.**

Passion (Palm) Sunday. This celebration of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem and the passion reading was first recorded in the 6th century; palms became a part of the celebration during the 7th and 8th centuries. A procession with palms became a part of the liturgy in the 10th century. Even today, the ritual of palms and procession varies universally. At St. Matthew's, palms will be blessed and distributed at each liturgy. The particular commemoration of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem is celebrated at the beginning of the 10am liturgy as the assembly gathers at 9:45am for the blessing of palms, gospel proclamation and procession into the cathedral. All Masses will include the special reading of the Passion according to St. Mark.

Holy Thursday – Liturgy of the Lord's Supper. 4th century Jerusalem gives us the first record that this day ends the season of Lent and that the evening Mass commemorates the Eucharistic institution. 7th century Rome has the first church celebration of the ritual feet washing during this evening liturgy. This celebration became the entry point into the Triduum of the paschal mystery—"crucified, buried and risen Lord" (St. Augustine). At St. Matthew's, the tradition of the feet washing is commemorated during the evening liturgy by inviting representatives of the community (women and men) to come forward to the sanctuary and participate in the washing of the feet. The celebration is concluded by the processional transfer of the Blessed Sacrament to its place of reservation after which those present are encouraged to spend some time reflecting on Christ's enduring in our life.

Good Friday – Liturgy of the Lord's Passion. 4th century Jerusalem provides the first recorded celebration in which people traced Christ's movement to Golgotha, stopping at various locations to sing psalms and pray. Upon reaching Golgotha, the wood of the cross was presented to people for veneration. 7th century Rome has the first record of St. John's passion being read during this celebration. Communion for the assembly was not always a part of this celebration, but was reintroduced in the 1955 liturgical reforms of the Triduum by Pope Pius XII. This liturgy typically begins in silence with the ministers prostrating on the floor of the sanctuary and includes the proclamation of the passion according to St. John, the solemn intercessions, the special veneration of the cross and

Communion for the assembly. At the veneration, the assembly is invited forward to reverence the cross (either a solemn bow, kiss or genuflection); the ritual does suggest that people come forward with shoes removed as an additional sign of reverence. Participants are also invited to make a special offering for the Holy Land sites.

Holy (Great) Saturday - Liturgy of the Easter Vigil. And so we come to "the mother of all holy vigils" (St. Augustine). The early 3rd century finds the first records of this most holy of celebrations during which all baptisms were performed [a practice that died out by the 11th century]. Between the 3rd and 12th centuries, the lighting of the Easter candle, the singing of the *Exsultet*, and the blessing of new fire and procession were added to this great liturgy at different points in time. When and how this liturgy was celebrated varied over these several centuries until Pius XII, and later Vatican Council II, restored the liturgy to its current form. This night marks with great solemnity the transition from death to life of Christ—the pivot of the mystery of salvation. We begin in darkness outside the cathedral by lighting the Easter fire and the great Paschal Candle. With tapers lit from the Paschal Candle, the assembly processes into the darkened church acclaiming "Christ our light." When the procession ends, the glorious Easter proclamation (the *Exsultet*) is sung. Following this, selected Old Testament texts are read telling the story of creation, Abraham's sacrifice, the Exodus and the coming of the Messiah. The singing of the Easter Gloria introduces the reading of the New Testament letter, followed by the magnificent Easter Gospel Alleluia that accompanies the procession of the Gospel Book for the solemn proclamation of the Easter Gospel. After the homily, the new Easter water is blessed, baptismal promises are renewed, new members are baptized or received into the church and confirmed. We continue with the eucharistic celebration that gives praise and thanksgiving for:

!! CHRIST IS RISEN !!

—Deacon Bartholomew Merella

*For the full Holy Week schedule, see the flyer in today's bulletin or our brochures in the pew racks and in baskets at the Cathedral doors.
View the schedule online at www.stmatthewscathedral.org.*

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

April 1: PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Schedule of Masses with the distribution of palms:

5:30PM (Saturday, March 31) REV. KEVIN REGAN (cantor)
7AM REV. MARK D. KNESTOUT
8:30AM REV. JOHN J. HURLEY (cantor)
9:45AM Blessing of Palms, DONALD CARDINAL WUERL
10AM DONALD CARDINAL WUERL (choir)
† **11:30AM** REV. MSGR. W. RONALD JAMESON (choir)
1PM REV. EVELIO MENJIVAR (en Español)
5:30PM VERY REV. JAMES J. GREENFIELD, O.S.F.S. (contemporary choir)

April 2: MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

7AM Mass
7:30AM Morning Prayer, St. Anthony Chapel
8AM Mass
11AM to NOON Confessions (4 confessors)
12:10PM Mass
1PM to 6PM *The Cathedral is closed & reopens at 6PM.*
† **7PM** CHRISM MASS & BLESSING OF OILS, DONALD CARDINAL WUERL, celebrant, concelebrated by the priests of the Archdiocese (choir)

April 3: TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

7AM Mass
7:30AM Morning Prayer, St. Anthony Chapel
8AM Mass
11AM *No confessions scheduled*
† **12:10PM** COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE
5:30PM Mass

April 4: WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

7AM Mass
7:30AM Morning Prayer, St. Anthony Chapel
8AM Mass
11AM to NOON Confessions (4 confessors)
12:10PM Mass
5:30PM Mass
6:15PM to 7:00PM Confessions (4 confessors)
7:30PM TENEBRÆ (choir)

April 5: HOLY THURSDAY

8AM *The Cathedral opens.*
9AM Morning Prayer, St. Anthony Chapel
11AM to NOON Confessions (4 confessors)
12:10PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, REV. MSGR. W. RONALD JAMESON (contemporary choir)
† **5:30PM** SOLEMN MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, DONALD CARDINAL WUERL (choir)
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10PM
9:45PM NIGHT PRAYER
The Cathedral closes at 10PM.

April 6: GOOD FRIDAY

8AM *The Cathedral opens.*
9AM Morning Prayer, St. Anthony Chapel
11AM to NOON Confessions (4 confessors)
NOON REFLECTIONS ON THE LORD'S PASSION, REV. STEPHEN ROSSETTI, D.Min., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pastoral Studies & Associate Dean for Seminary & Ministerial Programs, The Catholic University of America
† **1PM** LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION, DONALD CARDINAL WUERL (choir)
4PM LITURGIA DE LA PASIÓN DE N.S. JESUCRISTO, ADORACIÓN DE LA SANTA CRUZ, Y SANTA COMUNIÓN, REV. EVELIO MENJIVAR
7:30PM Stations of the Cross, REV. MSGR. W. RONALD JAMESON (in English)

April 7: HOLY SATURDAY

8AM *The Cathedral opens.*
9AM Morning Prayer, St. Anthony Chapel
11AM to NOON Confessions (4 confessors)
NOON to 7PM *No Masses during the day. The Cathedral closes at Noon & reopens at 7PM.*
† **8PM** EASTER VIGIL, DONALD CARDINAL WUERL (choir)

April 8: EASTER SUNDAY, THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Schedule of Masses:

7AM REV. MARK D. KNESTOUT
8:30AM REV. KEVIN REGAN (cantor)
10AM DONALD CARDINAL WUERL (choir)
† **11:30AM** REV. MSGR. W. RONALD JAMESON (choir)
1PM REV. EVELIO MENJIVAR (en Español)
5:30PM VERY REV. JAMES J. GREENFIELD, O.S.F.S. (contemporary choir)
The Rectory is closed today and Easter Monday, April 9.

† *Interpreted for the deaf*

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