

TODAY'S READINGS

“He opened their minds to understand the scriptures.” (Luke 24:45)
 We all love to have our minds stretched in new directions. There is nothing more exciting than listening to someone who can open up new horizons in our understanding. This is one way to describe how the apostles must have felt after Jesus appeared and “opened their minds to understand the scriptures” (Luke 24:45). But something more than human learning was going on here.

When Jesus opened the apostles’ minds, he lifted up their hearts as well. He gave them spiritual revelation about God’s plan of salvation, opening up for them the mystery of redemption in ways that their own human minds could never have grasped. And this revelation filled their hearts with love.

Because he was preparing his apostles for ministry, he wanted them to be clear. He wanted to impress upon them the fact that his gospel is about power from on high. It is not just a moral teaching or a set of intellectual propositions. He wanted them to proclaim that his gospel means letting his Holy Spirit fill them and open their minds.

And it worked! For the rest of their lives, the apostles—and Paul and so many others after them—preached this message. Even today, we can receive God’s revelation. Our minds can be opened by the same grace that opened the apostles’ minds—grace from heaven.

Today at Mass is a perfect opportunity to experience God lifting you up. When you receive the Eucharist, ask Jesus to open your heart. When you hear the readings, let the Holy Spirit fill your mind. As you kneel and pray after communion, know that Christ is in you, and that he is your hope of glory. God loves to stretch our minds, and what better way to experience it than at the table of the Lord!

“Jesus, come and give me your wisdom and your peace. Help me to seek your presence and to live for you each day. I believe that all spiritual understanding comes from you, and so I ask you to fill me now and lift me up to heaven.”

Taken from *The Word Among Us*, Easter 2012, Vol. 31, Number 5: Used with permission.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday 22nd | Acts 3:13-15,17-19 / 1 Jn 2:1-5 / Lk 24:35-48 |
| Monday 23rd | Acts 6:8-15 / Jn 6:22-29 |
| <i>St. George & St. Adalbert</i> | |
| Tuesday 24th | Acts 7:51—8:1 / Jn 6:30-35 |
| <i>St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen</i> | |
| Wednesday 25th | 1 Pt 5:5-14 / Mk 16:15-20 |
| <i>St. Mark</i> | |
| Thursday 26th | Acts 8:26-40 / Jn 6:44-51 |
| Friday 27th | Acts 9:1-20 / Jn 6:52-59 |
| Saturday 28th | Acts 9:31-42 / Jn 6:60-69 |
| <i>St. Peter Chanel & St. Louis Grignon de Montfort</i> | |
| Sunday 29th | Acts 4:8-12 / 1 Jn 3:1-2 / Jn 10:11-18 |

LAS LECTURAS DE HOY

Quando Jesús encontró a los discípulos en el camino de Emaús y en otros lugares después de su resurrección, se dio cuenta de que la fe de ellos era débil. Les llamó “faltos de comprensión” y “lentos para creer” y les dijo: “¿Por qué están asustados? ¿Por qué tienen esas dudas en su corazón?” Los discípulos no se habían dado cuenta de que eran tan incrédulos, y que confiaban demasiado en su propia lógica y razonamiento.

Así como Jesucristo les abrió el entendimiento a los discípulos en el camino de Emaús y en Jerusalén, así también el Espíritu Santo nos abrirá la mente, y nos ayudará a confiar completamente en la resurrección de Jesús. Cuando nos encontremos cara a cara con el Señor en las Escrituras, también nos arderá el corazón con el deseo de conocerlo más profundamente.

La Sagrada Escritura habla no sólo de historia o de un orden moral, sino que, en su nivel más profundo, nos habla de la Persona de Jesucristo, es decir, del plan de salvación que Dios tiene para todo ser humano. Del Génesis al Apocalipsis, allí está Cristo, aunque no siempre se le mencione por su nombre. Jesús es Aquel de quien hablaron los profetas y patriarcas y a quien los hebreos esperaban con tanto anhelo.

Quando las Escrituras cobran vida para nosotros, nos damos cuenta de que realmente lo único que podemos hacer es entregarnos de lleno a Aquel que entregó su vida para salvarnos de la muerte. Cuando nuestro corazón se enciende de amor por Cristo, la razón de nuestra vida se nos hace clara (como lo fue para San Pablo), que afirmaba que hemos sido “creados por medio de Él y para Él” (Colosenses 1,16). Y Jesús nos rescató muriendo en la cruz; ya no somos del mundo, ni nos pertenecemos a nosotros mismos, sino que somos de Aquel que pagó nuestro rescate con su sangre preciosa.

“Amado Señor, creo firmemente que Tú eres mi Señor y Salvador, que viniste a salvarme a mí y a todos los que quieran creer en Ti. Concédeme, Señor, que yo quiera permanecer unido a Ti para siempre.”

Escogida con el permiso de *La Palabra Entre Nosotros*, Vol. 31, Número 5: Abril/May 2012.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

| | |
|---|---|
| Domingo 22 | He 3:13-15,17-19 / 1 Jn 2:1-5 / Lc 24:35-48 |
| Lunes 23 | He 6:8-15 / Jn 6:22-29 |
| <i>San Jorge y San Adalberto</i> | |
| Martes 24 | He 7:51—8:1 / Jn 6:30-35 |
| <i>San Fidel de Sigmaringa</i> | |
| Miércoles 25 | 1 Pe 5:5-14 / Mc 16:15-20 |
| <i>San Marcos Evangelista</i> | |
| Jueves 26 | He 8:26-40 / Jn 6:44-51 |
| Viernes 27 | He 9:1-20 / Jn 6:52-59 |
| Sábado 28 | He 9:31-42 / Jn 6:60-69 |
| <i>San Pedro Chanel y San Luis María Griñón de Montfort</i> | |
| Domingo 29 | He 4:8-12 / 1 Jn 3:1-2 / Jn 10:11-18 |

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

COME—LET US ADORE HIM!



Join your parish family and friends at our monthly evening of Eucharistic Adoration on Monday, **April 23** from 6 to 7pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during the hour. This Eucharistic Holy Hour will be

offered for the intention of an increase in vocations to the priestly, religious and consecrated life, in anticipation of the 49th World Day of Prayer for Vocations to be celebrated on Sunday, **April 29**. We also will pray for the grace for each to remain faithful to his or her own vocation.

WINE AND WISDOM

Please join the young women of Wine and Wisdom for a discussion on "Prayer: From the Heart" this Monday, **April 23** at 7pm in the East Conference Room. This is sure to be a fruitful discussion! For questions or to RSVP, email wineandwisdom.stmatthews@gmail.com.

ROSARY FOR LIFE FIRST MONTHLY GATHERING

All are invited to join the Cathedral's Respect Life Ministry and your fellow parishioners in our first monthly Rosary for Life to be held Saturday, **April 28** after the 8am Mass, from 8:30-9am. We will pray the Rosary as we walk to Planned Parenthood, the abortion facility on 16th Street, NW. The Respect Life Ministry focuses on promoting and cultivating a culture of life and witnessing to the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death. We acknowledge that we are not alone in our desire to achieve this in our culture and that we must rely on our Heavenly Father for His guidance and assistance. Thus, on the fourth Saturday of every month, all are invited to join us in praying the Holy Rosary and asking for Mary's intercession as we seek to bring an end to the culture of death and to strengthen our resolve to witness to the culture of life. If you have any questions, please call Father Evelio Menjivar or Norma Canedo at 202-347-3215.

BIBLE STUDY ON WISDOM BOOKS

Father Hurley's series on the Wisdom Books of the Old Testament continues Saturday, **April 28** from 10:30 to 11:45am in the East Conference Room. This session will focus on the Psalms. Please bring a Bible, and consider staying for our 12:10pm Mass afterward.

CATHEDRAL CALENDAR

April 22 – April 29

- SUNDAY**—Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar se reúnen a las 11 de la mañana. Las clases de Confirmación continúan hoy a las 9 de la mañana.
- MONDAY**—**Eucharistic Adoration** is held in the Cathedral from 6pm until 7pm. The Liturgy Committee meets at 6:45pm in the **North** Conference Room. Wine and Wisdom meets at 7pm in the East Conference Room.
- TUESDAY**—El Grupo de Oración en Español tendrá una hora de reflexión a las 7:00 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Oeste.
- WEDNESDAY**—Breaking Open the Word meets at 7pm in the West Conference Room.
- THURSDAY**—The Respect Life Committee meets in the West Conference Room at 6:45pm.
- SATURDAY**—A Rosary for Life will be prayed after the 8am Mass, from 8:30 to 9am, in procession to the Planned Parenthood abortion facility on 16th Street, NW. Fr. Hurley's study on the Wisdom Books is held at 10:30am in the East Conference Room.
- SUNDAY**—Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar se reúnen a las 11 de la mañana. Las clases de Confirmación continúan hoy a las 9 de la mañana.

NEWS & NOTES

BLESSING OF ENGAGED COUPLES ON HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

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 to be married at the Cathedral or are receiving marriage preparation by St. Matthew's clergy are invited to receive the blessing. After the homily, the engaged couples will be invited into the sanctuary and will return to their seats after the blessing. If you plan to attend, please send an email to Reply@stmatthewscathedral.org.

Join us at one of the Hospitality receptions after all Masses that weekend except the 7am Sunday Mass.

CONCERT BY ROYAL CHAPEL CHOIR

The Copenhagen Royal Chapel Choir, which consists of about 80 boys and 30 professional male choristers, will present a concert in the Cathedral on Sunday, **May 13** at 7pm. Founded in 1924, the choir has been resident at the Copenhagen Cathedral since 1959 and performs on state occasions and during royal visits abroad. The program will combine music from the great European heritage of sacred music from the 16th to the 20th centuries, including works by Palestrina, Monteverdi, Bruckner, Liszt and Rachmaninoff, with ballads and folk songs from the rich Scandinavian tradition of vocal music. Admission is free and all are welcome. Free-will offerings will be gratefully accepted.

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

ADORACIÓN AL SANTÍSIMO SACRAMENTO

Les invitamos este lunes **23 de Abril** después de la misa de 5:30 de la tarde, a que se unan en adoración al Santísimo, de 6 a 7 de la tarde. El Sacramento de Reconciliación estará disponible durante la hora de la adoración. Esta Hora Santa al Santísimo será ofrecida por la intención del aumento de vocaciones sacerdotales, religiosas y a la vida consagrada, en anticipación al 49no Día Mundial de Oración por las Vocaciones que se celebrará el domingo **29 de abril**. Nosotros también oremos para que cada uno de ellos permanezca fiel a su vocación.

ROSARIO POR LA VIDA

PRIMERA REUNION MENSUAL

Todos están invitados a reunirse con el Ministerio de Respeto a la Vida de la Catedral y con otros feligreses en nuestra primera reunión mensual del Rosario por la Vida que será el sábado **28 de abril**, después de la misa de la 8:00 de la mañana, de 8:30-9 de la mañana. Rezaremos el rosario al caminar hacia Planned Parenthood, la clínica de abortos localizada en la calle 16. El Ministerio de Respeto a la Vida enfoca en promover y cultivar una cultura de vida y ser testigo a la dignidad de toda vida humana, de concepción a la muerte natural. Reconocemos que no estamos solos en nuestro deseo de lograr esto en nuestra propia cultura y que debemos confiar en nuestro Padre Celestial por Su dirección y ayuda. Cada cuarto sábado de cada mes, todos son invitados a reunirse con nosotros para rezar el rosario y pedirle a María por su intercesión en nuestra búsqueda a poner fin a la cultura de la muerte y reforzar nuestra determinación de ser testigos a la cultura de vida. Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor llame al Padre Evelio Menjivar o Norma Canedo al 202-347-3215.

CLASES DE CONVERSACIÓN EN INGLÉS PARA ADULTOS

¿Cuándo? **5 de junio – 1 de agosto** (9 semanas)
Los martes y miércoles de 6:30–8:30 de la noche

¿Dónde? Centro Educacional de San Mateo
1726 calle N, NW, Washington, DC

Enfocándose en: Conversación en Inglés

¿Costo? \$25

Los estudiantes pueden inscribirse en persona, martes o miércoles en la noche; las inscripciones comienzan el **5 de junio**, entre 6:30 y 8:00 de la noche, en el Centro Educativo de San Mateo (en la dirección de arriba). Durante la inscripción los nuevos estudiantes recibirán un breve examen para determinar cuál es el nivel de clases más apropiado para ellos. Los estudiantes podrán registrarse hasta el 20 de junio. Para más información, ponerse en contacto con el coordinador del Programa ESL a: stmattseslprogram@gmail.com ó llame al: 202-347-3215.

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN

El grupo de oración se reúne los martes a las 7:00 de la tarde, en el salón de conferencias del Oeste. El objetivo del grupo es profundizar en nuestra fe por medio de las Sagradas Escrituras. Para más información llame a la rectoría y deje un mensaje a Fátima Aybar 202-347-3215 x543.

DÍA DE ORACIÓN Y SANACIÓN

¿Se alegró usted mucho al recibir la noticia que estaba embarazada porque iba a tener un bebe? Entonces, al visitar al doctor sus esperanzas y sus sueños fueron reemplazados por un increíble miedo porque el personal médico le decía: “Su bebe tiene cero compatibilidad de vida, por eso nosotros le recomendamos una inducción” Venga a un Día de Oración y Sanación, el **19 de mayo** de 9:00 de la mañana a 5:00 de la tarde y conozca a otras parejas que tuvieron la misma experiencia que usted. El equipo del Ministerio Proyecto Raquel le facilitará un día de retiro con adoración eucarística; el sacramento de la confesión estará disponible, y la misa de vigilia del sábado. La dirección donde va a ser el evento, se le dará solamente a las personas que van a asistir. Todos nuestros contactos son confidenciales. Llame o envíe un correo electrónico a Luz Menjivar: 301-853-4565 menjivarl@adw.org.

VOCATIONS

MARINE CORPS MARATHON & 10K— CALLING ALL RUNNERS, WALKERS & 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 & 10km Race are not until October, lots of related events and voluntary training runs are 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 SCAVENGER HUNT – Saturday, April 28 12:30 to 5pm – Smithsonian Castle. Join the young adults for a fun afternoon and friendly competition! The hunt begins at the Smithsonian Castle, includes art museums along the Mall, and ends with happy hour in Chinatown. Cash prizes go to the top three teams. Contact: Carolyn at cawait.10@gmail.com.
VOLUNTEERING AT CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK – Saturday, May 5 – 1 to 4pm – Capital Area Food Bank. Young adults are needed to help sort and package food at the Capital Area Food Bank's warehouse. Contact: Carolyn at cawait.10@gmail.com.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

FAITH IN ACTION

ADULT ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

When? **June 5 – August 1** (9 weeks)
Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm
Where? St. Matthew's Education Center
1726 N Street NW, Washington, DC
Focus? Conversing in English
Cost? \$25

Students may register in person on Tuesdays or Wednesdays starting Tuesday, **June 5**, between 6:30 and 8:30pm, at St. Matthew's Education Center. Contact the ESL Program Coordinator at stmattseslprogram@gmail.com for more information, or call the Rectory at 202-347-3215.

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 lunches. To contribute food 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!

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, **May 9**. For more information, 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.

EASTER EXULTET DISPLAYED

If you haven't viewed it, you can see the parish's new ritual copy of the Easter Exultet on display during the Easter Season. Because the Exultet is sung from the ambo to begin the Easter Vigil, this specially decorated copy of the chant music is displayed at the front of the ambo just inside the sanctuary railing. It will be there each weekend to mark the Easter Season in the same manner as the Paschal Candle.

See the flyer in this bulletin for an explanation of the Exultet and its text.

AROUND THE AREA

AT THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY

Mass to Honor Patron Saint of Mothers and the Unborn - A Mass in honor of St. Gianna Beretta

Molla will be held on her feast day, Saturday, **April 28** at 10am at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land (1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC). St. Gianna, a patron saint of physicians, mothers and the unborn, is of particular relevance to our times in her love and respect for family life and unborn children. Contact: Fr. Ed Flanagan at 202-526-6800 or www.myfranciscan.com.

Herb and Plant Sale - The annual Franciscan Monastery Herb and Plant Sale will be Saturday, **May 5**, 10am-6pm and Sunday, **May 6**, 8am-3pm. The popular sale on the monastery grounds features a wide selection of organic herbs, annuals, perennials and vegetables. It is sponsored by the monastery's volunteer Garden Guild and supports the preservation of the monastery's gardens, a peaceful sanctuary for prayer in keeping with the Franciscan mission. Contact: 202-526-6800 or www.myfranciscan.com.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ABORTED DUE TO A POOR PRENATAL DIAGNOSIS

Were you happy to be pregnant and looking forward to a family? Then, upon one doctor visit, were your hopes and dreams for a new little one replaced with incredible fear as medical staff told you that your child had zero compatibility with life and recommended an induction? Come to an *Entering Canaan Day of Prayer and Healing* and meet other couples who had the same experience on **May 19**, 9am-5pm. Project Rachel Ministry Team will help you through this day retreat with time for Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Saturday Vigil Mass. The location is disclosed only to retreatants upon registering. All contacts are confidential. Contact Julia Shelava at 301-853-4565 or shelavaj@adw.org.

MASS INTENTIONS**Sunday, April 22**

5:30pm (vigil) – Alfonso Gonzalez
 7am – Thanksgiving
 8:30am – Helen Ann McGuire
 10am – Elizabeth M. Beall
 11:30am – Rev. V. Anthony Dolski
 1pm – Francisco & Luis Puerta
 5:30pm – Juan Bautista

Monday, April 23

7am – Rosie Hamill
 8am – Leonora de Zuniga (living)
 12:10pm – Thanksgiving
 5:30pm – Mr. & Mrs. Harold H. Begay

Tuesday, April 24

7am – Poor Souls in Purgatory
 8am – Margie Sullivan
 12:10 – Jose Omar (living)
 5:30pm – Joseph E. Storer

Wednesday, April 25

7am – Josephine Klug Kuhn
 8am – Enrico Gedse
 12:10pm – Dalmacio Francisco (living)
 5:30pm – Felix Ferrer

Thursday, April 26

7am – Enrico Gedse
 8am – Thomas G. Callahan (living)
 12:10pm – Rosalinda Francisco (living)
 5:30pm – Marilyn Cloney

Friday, April 27

7am – Thanksgiving
 8am – Richard Outsens
 12:10 – Thomas Kenneally
 5:30pm – Brigitte Kekeh

Saturday, April 28

8am – Mary Cacciavelli
 12:10pm – Stephanie & Chris Bunt
 (living)
 5:30pm – Bill O'Bryan

Sunday, April 29

7am – Deacon Boyd Work (living)
 8:30am – Cassiel Webster
 10am – Sheila Collins
 11:30am – Enidia Sitthikul
 1pm – Maria Natividad Pineda
 5:30pm – Gabbie De Lara (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.



CATHEDRAL OF
 ST. MATTHEW
 THE APOSTLE

CONSIDER REMEMBERING
 OUR CATHEDRAL PARISH
 IN YOUR WILL.

For more information,
 please call
 Msgr. Jameson.

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.

EXULTET – EASTER PROCLAMATION

This ancient hymn of praise and blessing is sung at the beginning of the Easter Vigil liturgy and takes its name from the first word of the hymn “exultet” from the Latin “ex saltare” (i.e. to leap for joy).

Its historic origins are difficult to pinpoint. Scholars suggest that its particular musical notation is indicative of chant that was composed perhaps as early as the 5th century, if not before. Others suggest that its origins may date earlier to the 4th century because both St. Ambrose of Milan and St. Augustine refer to it in relation to the Paschal Candle in use during their time. Extant missals used in the Gallican Church of the 7th and 8th centuries contain manuscripts of the hymn. Some of these manuscripts were in the form of rolled parchment that were decorated with illuminations and the portraits of reigning sovereigns of the period.

This hymn is typically sung by the deacon. This occurs after the deacon has carried the candle lit by the bishop, leading the way for the procession of the faithful into the darkened church. There is some historical evidence that, in some churches, the deacon has sung it while lighting the Easter Candle, a rather taxing task. Now the rule is to sing it from the ambo next to where the lit Easter Candle is placed in the sanctuary.

Its format parallels what we know of as the Preface that begins the Eucharistic Prayer during Mass. The text asks for God’s blessing upon the Paschal (Easter) Candle. In that regard, it parallels the blessing of palms and the blessing of water in the baptismal font.

The words draw a connection between the Old and the New Testaments, the candle corresponding to the scriptural “pillar of fire.” One scholar describes its words as “language that rises to heights hard to find elsewhere in Christian literature. It outlines ancient church dogmas as through a portal drawing us into the warmth of deep mysticism, to a place where in the light of paradise even the sin of Adam is described as a ‘happy fault.’” One unusual aspect of the text is the two-fold mention of “the work of the bees,” referring to the fact that the candle is to be made from pure beeswax. Another oddity was the prayer’s closing reference to the reigning Holy Roman Emperor – a practice that ceased in 1870, but was not formally removed from the official text until 1955 when Pope Pius XII reformed the ritual of Holy Week.

Of course, the text we hear now is the vernacular English rather than the historic Latin. And the current translation reflects some slight modification resulting from the new translation of the Roman Missal.

The Easter Proclamation can be viewed in the illuminated ritual book, located in front of the low ambo (pulpit). The complete text of the Easter Proclamation is on the reverse side of this insert.

—Deacon Bartholomew Merella

EXULTET – EASTER PROCLAMATION

Exult, let them exult, the host of heaven, exult, let angel ministers of God exult, let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!

Be glad, let earth be glad as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness.

Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice, arrayed with the lightning of his glory, let this holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

Therefore, dearest friends, standing in the awesome glory of this holy night, invoke with me, I ask you, the mercy of God almighty, that he, who has been pleased to number me, though unworthy, among the Levites, may pour into me his light un-shadowed, that I may sing this candle perfect praises.

The Lord be with you. R/ And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts. R/ We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. R/ It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, with ardent love of mind and heart and with devoted service of our voice, to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father, and, pouring out his own dear blood, wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These, then, are the feasts of Passover, in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb, whose Blood anoints the door-posts of believers.

This is the night, when once you led our forebears, Israel's children, from slavery in Egypt and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea. This is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night that even now, throughout the world, sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin, leading them to grace and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night, when Christ broke the prison bars of death and rose victorious from the underworld. Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed.

O wonder of your humble care for us! O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son! O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

O truly blessed night, worthy alone to know the time and hour when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night of which it is written: the night shall be as bright as day, dazzling is the night for me, and full of gladness. The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty. On this night of grace, O holy Father, accept this candle, a solemn offering, the work of bees and of your servants' hands, an evening sacrifice of praise, this gift from your most holy Church.

But now we know the praises of this pillar, which glowing fire ignites for God's honor, a fire into many flames divided, yet never dimmed by sharing of its light, for it is fed by melting wax, drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth, and divine to the human.

Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the honor of your name, may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night. Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.

May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who coming back from death's domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever. R/ Amen



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.

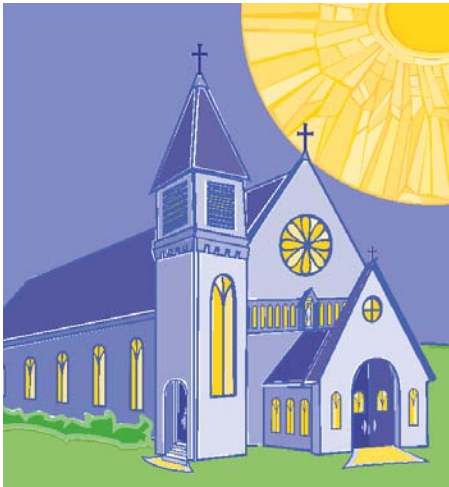
Sign up using the enrollment form on the other side or go online to www.faithdirect.net and use our parish code **DC284** to enroll today!



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.