

TODAY'S READINGS

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.” (John 15:11)
It was one o'clock in the morning when the couple received news that their two sons would be returning home from the war in two months' time. They were so excited that they stayed awake all the rest of the night reminiscing about their boys and making plans for their eventual reunion. They knew their sons were still in harm's way, but there was no room for doubt and worry that night. Their joy sprang from their hope.

As believers, we too are invited to rejoice in something that hasn't fully come to pass. Jesus has risen victorious from death. He has triumphed in the battle against sin and given us a share in his victory. But at the same time, his full victory has yet to be revealed, and we find ourselves living in hope. We still face battles against sin and temptation. We still face situations that threaten our peace or rob us of joy. In short, we are still waiting for the Second Coming, when our joy will be complete.

Just as the soldiers' parents found joy by living in hope, so too can we. It's what we do, in fact, every time we celebrate Mass. Gathered as one people, we hear Jesus speak his words to us—words of life that tell us of the promise of heaven and the salvation that he won for us. Then, offering him our gifts, we fix our eyes on the altar, where bread and wine are transformed into his body and blood.

This is the reason for our hope! Just as the bread and wine become something different, so too will our lives be transformed at the end of time. Every time we receive Jesus' body and blood, we receive a share in the divine life that will completely suffuse us one day. We receive more strength, more encouragement, and more love to sustain us as we continue our vigil. And so we continue to wait in joyful hope for that day when our joy will be complete.

“Lord Jesus, help me to live in your love today!”

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

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 13th	Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48 / 1 Jn 4:7-10 / Jn 15:9-17
Monday 14th	Acts 1:15-17,20-26 / Jn 15:9-17
<i>St. Matthias</i>	
Tuesday 15th	Acts 16:22-34 / Jn 16:5-11
<i>St. Isidore</i>	
Wednesday 16th	Acts 17:15,22-18:1 / Jn 16:12-15
Thursday 17th	Acts 18:1-8 / Jn 16:16-20
Friday 18th	Acts 18:9-18 / Jn 16:20-23
<i>St. John I</i>	
Saturday 19th	Acts 18:23-28 / Jn 16:23-28
Sunday 20th	Acts 1:1-11 / Eph 1:17-23 / Mk 16:15-20
<i>The Ascension of the Lord</i>	

LAS LECTURAS DE HOY

El amor es la vida y la fuerza del Evangelio. En la cruz, Cristo demostró cuánto nos ama Dios, no porque lo mereciéramos nosotros, sino sencillamente porque quiso salvarnos del dolor de la muerte. Tan grande es el amor del Padre que llegó incluso a entregar a su único Hijo, para que los pecadores pudiéramos vivir: “Dios mostró su amor hacia nosotros al enviar a su Hijo único al mundo” (1 Juan 4,9).

Ahora bien, ¿cómo hemos de amar a Dios, si ni siquiera lo vemos? El propio Cristo nos dice cómo: obedeciendo sus mandamientos y amándonos “unos a otros como yo los he amado a ustedes”, pero no para “merecer” el amor de Dios, sino para conocer y experimentar su amor, a fin de compartirlo con familiares, amigos, compañeros de trabajo y la comunidad parroquial.

Hasta el gran apóstol San Pedro tuvo que aprender. Cuando reconoció que Dios ama a todo tipo de personas se quedó perplejo, pero obedeció y presentó la verdad del Evangelio a Cornelio y su familia, a raíz de lo cual ¡el Espíritu Santo cayó sobre todos ellos! (Hechos 10,34-48).

Todos sabemos lo que es el amor verdadero, y tal vez la primera experiencia que tuvimos de él fue en el regazo de nuestra madre. Hoy, en que recordamos especialmente a todas las madres del mundo, sabemos que el amor maternal es probablemente el más puro, el más abnegado, el más tierno y el más duradero que existe en el mundo. Y este amor que tiene una madre por sus hijos, especialmente los pequeños y más vulnerables, no es más que una proyección de aquel Amor divino que nuestro Dios ha prodigado al género humano desde antes de la Creación. No hace falta mencionarlo, pero sin duda el ejemplo más patente y sublime de amor maternal lo tenemos en la Santísima Virgen María, Madre del Redentor y Madre nuestra.

“Ven, Espíritu Santo, llénanos del amor de Dios, para que sepamos a amar a Dios como Él nos ama y al prójimo como a nosotros mismos. Bendice, Dios Santo y Todopoderoso, a todas las madres, las abuelas y las que pronto serán madres.”

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

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo 13	He 10:25-26,34-35,44-48 / 1 Jn 4:7-10 / Jn 15:9-17
Lunes 14	He 1:15-17,20-26 / Jn 15:9-17
<i>San Matías Apóstol</i>	
Martes 15	He 16:22-34 / Jn 16:5-11
<i>San Isidro Labrador</i>	
Miércoles 16	He 17:15,22-18:1 / Jn 16:12-15
Jueves 17	He 18:1-8 / Jn 16:16-20
Viernes 18	He 18:9-18 / Jn 16:20-23
<i>San Juan I</i>	
Sábado 19	He 18:23-28 / Jn 16:23-28
Domingo 20	He 1:1-11 / Ef 1:17-23 / Mc 16:15-20
<i>La Ascensión del Señor</i>	

HIGHLIGHTS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to our four children—Eamon (Ned) Bainbridge, Sebastiano (Seba) Caillat, Kathryn LaLonde, and Taylor Jose (TJ) Vasquez Bilodeau—who will receive First Holy Communion at the 11:30am Mass today, Sunday, *May 13!*

BABY SUPPLIES DRIVE

The Cathedral's Respect Life Ministry will hold a baby supplies drive next Sunday, *May 20*. Before and after all Masses, volunteers will collect donations of diapers, wipes, baby formula, car seats and strollers for the Northwest Pregnancy Center, a community outreach program that assists low-income mothers and their children by providing them with counseling, material assistance, housing, and educational opportunities, among other vital services. Monetary donations to Northwest Pregnancy Center also are welcome. For more information, contact the Cathedral's Respect Life Ministry Co-coordinators, Justin Silvers and Sarah Roque, at stmatthewsrespectlife@yahoo.com.

SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE RECTOR

Thank you to all who attended the blessing of engaged couples at last weekend's 11:30am Mass. Special thanks to the St. Matthew's clergy who prepare our couples to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage—our Parochial Vicars, Fr. Kevin Regan and Fr. Evelio Menjivar, Fr. Jack Hurley, our permanent deacons, Deacon Bartholomew Merella and Deacon Clayton Nickel, as well as our Dominican deacons, Br. Augustine Reisenauer and Br. Albert Duggan. —*Msgr Jameson*

JOIN IN DEFENSE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

On *March 14, 2012* the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a statement from the Bishops, entitled “**United for Religious Freedom.**” Among other issues, the statement addressed the now-finalized mandate of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that would force virtually all private health plans nationwide to provide coverage of sterilization and contraception—including abortifacient drugs. **Bottom line: our religious freedom is in jeopardy. There has been no change to this mandate despite news reports that modifications have been made.** This is a mandate to act against our Catholic teachings. Government has no place defining religion and religious ministry. This HHS mandate creates and enforces a new distinction—alien both to our Catholic tradition and to federal law—between our houses of worship and our great ministries of service to our neighbors. This is not only an injustice in itself, but it also undermines the effective proclamation of those teachings to the faithful and to the world.

The Bishops are calling upon the Catholic faithful, and all people of faith, throughout our country to join in prayer and penance for our leaders and for the complete protection of our First Freedom—religious liberty—which is not only protected in the laws and customs of our great nation, but rooted in the teachings of our great Tradition. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is resolved to act strongly, in concert with our fellow citizens, in defense of religious freedom.

To learn more about our first freedom, and to send your message to HHS and Congress telling them to stand up for religious liberty and conscience rights, go to www.usccb.org/conscience today!

CALENDAR

May 13 – May 20

SUNDAY—A second collection for Catholic Relief Service is taken at all Masses.

A Mother's Day blessing is given at all Masses.

Las clases de Confirmación continúan hoy a las 9 de la mañana.

Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar se reúnen a las 11 de la mañana.

The Sacrament of First Eucharist is celebrated at the 11:30am Mass.

The Cathedral Club meets at 1pm in the West Conference Room.

A C†YA Meet-and-Greet is held at 4pm in the East Conference Room.

The Copenhagen Royal Chapel Choir presents a concert at 7pm in the Cathedral.

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

TUESDAY—The Faith Formation Committee meets at 6:45pm in the East Conference Room.

El Grupo de Oración en Español se reunirá a las 7 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 Knights of Columbus meet at 7:30pm in the West Conference Room.

SATURDAY—A choir from Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart sings at the 5:30pm Mass.

SUNDAY—Las clases de Confirmación concluyen hoy a las 9 de la mañana.

Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar se reúnen a las 11 de la mañana.

El Obispo Francisco González, SF celebrará las Confirmaciones de los jóvenes de la comunidad hispana durante la misa de español a la 1 de la tarde.

A Trumpet Organ concert is held at 3pm in the Cathedral.

FAITH IN ACTION

WITNESS TO LIFE MASS & PROCESSION

"Give us the grace – When the sacredness of life before birth is attacked, to stand up and proclaim that no one ever has the authority to destroy unborn life."

~ Blessed John Paul II

The Cathedral and the Archdiocese Department of Life Issues will host a Witness to Life Mass and rosary procession on Thursday, **May 24**. Join us for Mass at 5:30pm Mass, followed by a procession to the Planned Parenthood facility on 16th Street, NW to pray for an end to abortion and to the White House to pray for religious freedom. Following the procession, all are invited to a reception at the Catholic Information Center (1501 K Street, NW). Mark your calendars and bring your friends as we witness to the dignity of life. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/adwlifeissues, or contact Michelle Carper of the Archdiocese Department of Life Issues at 301-853-4555 or the Cathedral's Respect Life Ministry Co-coordinators, Justin Silvers and Sarah Roque, at stmatthewsrespectlife@yahoo.com.

ADULT ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

Classes on conversing in English will be offered during the Summer Semester of our ESL Program to be held **June 5 – August 1** on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Students may register, in person, starting **June 5**, between 6:30 and 8:30pm, at St. Matthew's Education Center (1726 N Street, NW). Language instruction will be provided at Level 1 (Beginner) through Level 4 (Advanced). At registration, each student will be assessed to determine the appropriate class level in which he/she will be placed. Registrations will be accepted until June 20. The cost of the 9-week program is \$25. There will be no classes the week of July 4, Independence Day. For more information, contact the ESL Program Coordinator at stmatsseslprogram@gmail.com.

WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK (WIN) COMMUNITY FORUM

All parishioners are invited to attend a bilingual forum on Saturday **May 26**, from 10am to 12pm in the North Conference Room. The Advocacy & Education Ministry will host a community forum with the facilitation of WIN—a multi-ethnic, interfaith, non-partisan politically active grassroots organization that works to improve life in the District of Columbia for all residents. This is an opportunity for parishioners to voice concerns that affect members of our parish and surrounding neighborhoods. Topics may include jobs, housing, homelessness, and immigration. For more information, contact Franz Kuo at stmatssadvocacy@gmail.com. For more information on WIN, visit: <http://www.windc-iaf.org/>.

VOCATIONS

MEN'S DISCERNMENT DINNER

The Archdiocese of Washington's Office of Priest Vocations will hold a discernment dinner for men in their 20s to 40s on Sunday, **May 20** from 4 to 8pm, at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament (6001 Western Avenue, NW). The evening includes Holy Mass, dinner and a chance to discuss the priesthood with other DC area young men. Participants should be practicing Catholics, single and either college-age, post-graduates or professionals. Questions? Contact Fr. Carter Griffin, Director of Priest Vocations at 202-636-9020 or vocations@adw.org.

YOUNG ADULTS

C†YA ON THE WATER – Saturday, May 26 – 9:30am – Thompson Boat Center – If you're in town for the long weekend, join the young adults for a morning of kayaking or canoeing. Questions? Contact Philippe at bambino106@gmail.com.
C†YA FOR SUPPER – Thursday, May 31 – 7:30pm – Levante's – Calling all foodies and friends for the first monthly C†YA supper club! Please RSVP to Eileen at mckeowneileen@gmail.com by May 27.

NEWS & NOTES

COME—LET US ADORE HIM!

Join your parish family and friends at our monthly evening of Eucharistic Adoration on Monday, **May 21** from 6 to 7pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during the hour.

WINE AND WISDOM

Please join the young women of Wine and Wisdom for a discussion on "Praying to Our Mother" on Monday, **May 21** at 7pm in the East Conference Room. We will discuss and explore various Marian devotions.

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, **May 28** is Memorial Day, a Federal holiday. The Cathedral will open at 7:30am and close at 1pm. Masses will be celebrated at 8am and 12:10pm. There will be no Confessions, and the Rectory offices will be closed.

K OF C

The Potomac Council #433 of the Knights of Columbus invites all men, 18 years and older, to join their ranks and help serve St. Matthew's and the downtown community by assisting with the parish's weekly homeless ministry, events on important issues confronting Catholics, and various service projects. They meet the third Thursday of every month at 7:30pm in the West Conference Room.

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

COLECTA DE ARTÍCULOS PARA BEBES

El comité de Respeto a la Vida de la Catedral tendrá una colecta de artículos para bebés el próximo domingo **20 de mayo**. Antes y después de todas las misas, voluntarios estarán recogiendo pañales, toallitas húmedas de bebé, fórmula, asientos de bebés y coches de bebés para el Centro del Embarazo del Noroeste; un programa que ofrece ayuda a madres de bajos recursos, y a sus hijos a proveerles consejería, asistencia material, vivienda y oportunidades educativas, y otros servicios vitales. Donaciones monetarias son bienvenidas. Para más información puede contactar a los coordinadores del ministerio de Respeto a la Vida de la Catedral, Justin Silvers y Sarah Roque, a stmatthewsrespectlife@yahoo.com.

ADORACIÓN AL SANTÍSIMO SACRAMENTO

Les invitamos este lunes **21 de mayo** 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.

CLASES DE CONVERSACIÓN EN INGLÉS PARA ADULTOS

Se ofrecerán clases de conversación en inglés durante el semestre de verano de nuestro Programa de ESL comenzando el **5 de junio – 1 de agosto** los martes y los miércoles en la noche de 6:30 - 8:30. Los estudiantes pueden matricularse en persona, comenzando el **5 de junio**, entre las 6:30 y las 8:30 de la noche, en el Centro Educativo de San Mateo, en la 1726 de la calle N. Las clases de lenguaje serán ofrecidas del nivel 1 (principiante) al nivel 4 (avanzado). Durante las matriculas, cada estudiante recibirá un breve examen para determinar cual es el nivel de clase más apropiado para él/ella. Los estudiantes se podrán registrar hasta el 20 de junio. El costo es de \$25 por el programa de 9 semanas. Para más información, por favor póngase en contacto con el Coordinador del Programa de ESL al stmattseslprogram@gmail.com.

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.

OFRECIMIENTO DE MISAS

Se les recuerda a todas las personas que deseen ofrecer misas por sus difuntos, que tienen que reservarlas por lo menos con tres meses de antelación debido a que solo tenemos una misa en español.

TESTIMONIO DE VIDA MISA Y PROCESIÓN

Cuando la santidad de la vida que está por nacer es atacada, “danos la gracia para levantarnos y proclamar que nadie tiene la autoridad para destruir la vida que está por nacer” ~ Santo Padre, Juan Pablo II

La Catedral y el departamento de Asuntos de la Vida de la Arquidiócesis ofrecerán una misa y una procesión con Rosario el jueves **24 de mayo**. Únase a nosotros a la misa de las 5:30 de la tarde, seguida por una procesión al Planned Parenthood (16th Street, NW) para rezar por el fin al aborto e ir a la Casa Blanca para rezar por la libertad religiosa. Después de la procesión, habrá una recepción en el centro de Información Católica en 1501 de la calle K, del Noroeste. Marquen sus calendarios e inviten a sus amigos que les acompañen a ser testigos a la dignidad de la vida humana. Para más información visite www.facebook.com/adwlifeissues, o llame a Michelle Carper del departamento de Asuntos de la Vida de la Arquidiócesis, al 301-853-4555 o puede contactar a los coordinadores del ministerio de Respeto a la Vida de la Catedral, Justin Silvers y Sarah Roque, a stmatthewsrespectlife@yahoo.com.



FORO COMUNITARIO CON LA RED ECUMÉNICA DE WASHINGTON (WIN)

Todos los miembros de la parroquia están invitados a asistir al foro comunitario bilingüe que será el sábado **26 de mayo**, de 10-12 de la mañana en el salón del Norte. El Ministerio de Apoyo Activo y Educativo presentará un foro comunitario con la ayuda de WIN—una organización políticamente activa a nivel local y ecuménica no partisana, y de diversidad étnica, la cual trabaja para mejorar la vida de todos los residentes del Distrito de Columbia. Esta es una oportunidad para que todos puedan dar voz a los intereses comunitarios que afectan a miembros de la parroquia y a vecindarios cercanos. Los temas pueden incluir, pero no son limitados a: trabajos, vivienda, el tema de estar sin hogar, e inmigración. Para más información, por favor contacte a Franz Kuo al stmattsadvocacy@gmail.com. Para más información sobre WIN, por favor visite (la página es en inglés): <http://www.windc-iaf.org/>.

A TRAVÉS DEL MUNDO

Un ministerio para los católicos que viajan se provee gratuitamente en toda la nación y a través del mundo. Hay 22,000 iglesias en toda la nación y 82,000 iglesias fuera de los Estados Unidos, llame al 734-794-2100 para encontrar el horario de misas ó visite www.masstimes.org.

MASS INTENTIONS***Sunday, May 13***

5:30pm (vigil) – Lira Calahorrano
 7am – Rita T. Zelonis (living)
 8:30am – Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Fatima
 10am – Graciela de Tejada & Maria Rivera
 11:30am – Jean Malvicini
 1pm – Maria M. dos Santos y Familia
 5:30pm – Victor Escorpizo

Monday, May 14

7am – Miriam Barth
 8am – Embelina Banfield
 12:10pm – Jean Defalco
 5:30pm – Mr. William Laprade

Tuesday, May 15

7am – Gabriel Sulbarán-Solis
 8am – Teresa Macri
 12:10 – Virginia Ball
 5:30pm – Mary Buckley

Wednesday, May 16

7am – John Kekeh
 8am – Elsa Wadsworth
 12:10pm – Quy Tran
 5:30pm – Amanda & Chloe Orlina Nguyen (living)

Thursday, May 17

7am – Frank Brophy
 8am – Carol Hatch
 12:10pm – Daniel G. Romualdez (living)
 5:30pm – Raul N. Quiroga

Friday, May 18

7am – Remedio Santos Camus
 8am – Remedios Almeda (living)
 12:10 – Farolito Alday
 5:30pm – Stephen Rippel

Saturday, May 19

8am – Andrés Maciel
 12:10pm – Milena Rivera
 5:30pm – Jesse Damasco (living)

Sunday, May 20

7am – All Parishioners
 8:30am – Raul N. Quiroga
 10am – Anumu Edem Ketoglo (living)
 11:30am – Tony Blankley
 1pm – Dolores & Lillian Palacios
 5:30pm – Marietta Tapiru (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 take 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 202-587-5143 or mhurley@stmatthewscathedral.org.

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.



RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

USCCB Nationwide Bulletin Insert

April-May 2012

THE MOST CHERISHED OF AMERICAN FREEDOMS Past and Present

In 1634, a mix of Catholic and Protestant settlers arrived in Southern Maryland from England aboard the *Ark* and the *Dove*. They had come at the invitation of the Catholic Lord Baltimore, who had been granted the land by the Protestant King Charles I of England. While Catholics and Protestants were killing each other in Europe, Lord Baltimore imagined Maryland as a society where people of different faiths could live together peacefully. This vision was soon codified in Maryland's 1649 Act Concerning Religion (also called the "Toleration Act"), which was the first law in our nation's history to protect an individual's right to freedom of conscience.

Maryland's early history teaches us that, like any freedom, **religious liberty requires constant vigilance and protection, or it will disappear.** Maryland's experiment in religious toleration ended within a few decades. The colony was placed under royal control and the Church of England became the established religion. Discriminatory laws, including the loss of political rights, were enacted against those who refused to conform. Catholic chapels were closed and Catholics were restricted to practicing their faith in their homes. The Catholic community lived under this coercion until the American Revolution.

By the end of the 18th century our nation's founders embraced freedom of religion as an essential condition of a

free and democratic society. So when the Bill of Rights was ratified, religious freedom had the distinction of being the First Amendment. Religious liberty is indeed the first liberty.

This is our American heritage, our most cherished freedom. **If we are not free in our conscience and our practice of religion, all other freedoms are fragile.** If our obligations and duties to God are impeded, or even worse, contradicted by the government, then we can no longer claim to be a land of the free.

Is our most cherished freedom truly under threat?

Among many current challenges, consider the recent Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate requiring almost all private health plans to cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs. For the first time in our history, the federal government will force religious institutions to facilitate drugs and procedures contrary to our moral teaching, and purport to define which religious institutions are "religious enough" to merit an exemption. This is not a matter of whether contraception may be prohibited by the government. It is not even a matter of whether contraception may be supported by the government. **It is a matter of whether religious people and institutions may be forced by the government to provide coverage for contraception and sterilization, even when it violates our religious beliefs.**

What can you do to ensure the protection of religious freedom?

To learn more about our first freedom, and to send your message to HHS and Congress telling them to stand up for religious liberty and conscience rights, go to www.usccb.org/conscience today! Thank you for joining the effort to end this unprecedented government coercion of conscience and intrusion in religious affairs.



LA LIBERTAD RELIGIOSA

Volante de USCCB para boletines en toda la nación

Abril-Mayo 2012

LA MÁS PRECIADA DE LAS LIBERTADES AMERICANAS Pasado y Presente

En 1634 un grupo de colonos católicos y protestantes llegaron de Inglaterra a la isla de St. Clement, en el sur de Maryland, a bordo de los buques *Ark* y *Dove*. Habían venido invitados por el católico Lord Baltimore a quien el rey protestante, Charles I de Inglaterra, le había entregado Maryland con el fin de que allí se estableciera una sociedad donde personas de diferentes credos pudieran convivir en paz. Esta idea pronto fue legislada en Maryland en 1649, y conocida como el Decreto sobre la Religión (también llamado Decreto de Tolerancia), y que fue la primera ley que se decretó en nuestra nación para proteger los derechos de libertad de conciencia del individuo.

La antigua historia de Maryland nos enseña que, al igual que cualquier otra libertad, **la libertad religiosa requiere vigilancia y protección continua, de lo contrario puede desaparecer.** Pero el experimento de tolerancia religiosa de Maryland terminó unas pocas décadas más tarde. La colonia de pobladores fue colocada bajo la autoridad del rey, y la Iglesia de Inglaterra se convirtió en la religión oficial. Se implantaron leyes discriminatorias, incluyendo la pérdida de derechos políticos contra los que se negaran a cumplirlas. Se cerraron las capillas católicas, y los católicos fueron restringidos a practicar su fe solamente en sus hogares. Bajo estas condiciones vivió la comunidad católica hasta la Revolución Americana.

A finales del siglo dieciocho, los fundadores de nuestra nación adoptaron la libertad religiosa como una condición esencial de una sociedad libre y democrática. Por lo tanto, cuando se

ratificó la Declaración de Derechos, la libertad religiosa se distinguiera en ser la Primera Enmienda. La libertad religiosa es, indiscutiblemente, la primera de las libertades.

Esta es nuestra herencia Americana, nuestra más preciada libertad. **Si no tenemos libertad de conciencia para practicar la religión, todas las demás libertades se vuelven frágiles.** Si nuestras obligaciones y deberes para con Dios son impedidos, o peor aún, contradichos por el gobierno, entonces no podremos seguir afirmando que ésta es la tierra de la libertad.

¿Está siendo amenazada la más preciada de nuestras libertades? Entre los retos actuales, considere el reciente mandato del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos (HHS, sigla en inglés) que requiere que casi todos los planes privados de seguros médicos cubran la anticoncepción, la esterilización y las drogas abortivas. Por primera vez en nuestra historia, el gobierno federal obligará a las instituciones religiosas a facilitar y pagar por algo que es contrario a sus enseñanzas morales, pretendiendo definir cuáles instituciones religiosas son “suficientemente religiosas” como para ameritar la protección de su libertad religiosa. Esto no es un asunto de que si el gobierno deba prohibir la anticoncepción. No es siquiera un asunto de que si la anticoncepción deba ser apoyada por el gobierno. **Se trata de que si las personas e instituciones religiosas deben ser forzadas por el gobierno a proveer cobertura de anticonceptivos o esterilización, aun cuando estas prácticas violen sus creencias religiosas.**

¿Qué puede hacer para asegurar la protección de la libertad religiosa?

¡Para más información sobre nuestra primera libertad y enviar un mensaje a HHS y al Congreso pidiéndoles que defiendan la libertad religiosa y los derechos de conciencia, visite www.usccb.org/conscience hoy! Gracias por unirse a los esfuerzos para ponerle fin a este esfuerzo sin precedentes de la coerción de la conciencia y la intromisión en asuntos religiosos por parte del gobierno.

CATHOLICISM with Father Robert Barron

Journey to the Heart of the Catholic Faith

Answering the call for the New Evangelization, this multimedia educational program reveals the truth, beauty and goodness of the Catholic faith in an unprecedented way. It uses art, architecture, literature, music and all the treasures of the Catholic tradition to illuminate the timeless teachings of the Church.

Come learn what Catholics believe and why.

The Faith Formation Committee will host a screening and discussion of this documentary for ten consecutive weeks.

Join us for any or all Thursdays from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the North Conference Room.

All are welcome. No RSVP required.

May 24	“Amazed and Afraid: The Revelation of God Became Man”
May 31	“Happy Are We: The Teachings of Jesus”
June 7	“That Than Which Nothing Greater Can Be Thought: The Ineffable Mystery of God”
June 14	“Our Tainted Nature’s Solitary Boast: Mary, the Mother of God”
June 21	“The Indispensable Men: Peter, Paul and the Missionary Adventure”
June 28	“A Body Both Suffering and Glorious: The Mystical Union of the Christ and the Church”
July 5	“Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven: The Mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist”
July 12	“A Vast Company of Witnesses: The Communion of Saints”
July 19	“The Fire of His Love: Prayer and the Life of the Spirit”
July 26	“World Without End: The Last Things”

Father Robert Barron is an acclaimed author, speaker, and theologian. He is the Francis Cardinal George Professor of Faith and Culture at Mundelein Seminary in Illinois and the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, a nonprofit global media organization that supports Catholic evangelical preaching, particularly the work of Father Barron (www.wordonfire.org). The John Carroll Society hosted Father Barron for its annual lecture at St. Matthew’s Cathedral in 2011.



CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE
1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Washington DC 20036
202-347-3215 --- www.stmatthewscathedral.org

For information about Faith Formation offerings at St. Matthew’s Cathedral, contact Heather Kinney, Director of Faith Formation, at hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Are you:

Interested in becoming Catholic?

*A Catholic who wishes to receive the Sacraments of
Confirmation and Eucharist?*

Then RCIA is for you!



The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** (RCIA) is a process for adults who desire to explore the Catholic faith and to become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church. The goal of the RCIA process is full, conscious, and active participation in the Catholic way of life. RCIA helps adults to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, become familiar with Catholic teachings and practices, and get to know the faith community in preparation for making the conscious choice to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

If you are interested in learning more, please plan to attend:

WHAT: RCIA INFORMATION SESSION

TIME: 7:00PM TO 9:00PM

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

PLACE: NORTH CONFERENCE ROOM

(accessible through the glass-and-iron door at the base of the driveway
leading into the public parking garage next to the Cathedral)

No RSVP required!

Weekly RCIA sessions will begin the following Wednesday, **June 6.**

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

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