



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

July 2016

My dear parishioners,

Another exciting **ordination season** has passed, reminding me as always of my own ordination to the priesthood forty-eight years ago! St. Matthew's is especially blessed this year with the ordination to the transitional diaconate of parishioner **Andrew Wakefield**, a seminarian at my alma mater, Theological College. Also ordained as a deacon was **Br. Manuel Palma**, a seminarian of the Institute of the Incarnate Word (IVE) who taught catechism in our Children's Faith Formation program for three years. Please pray for these men, and all the newly ordained.



What a privilege and responsibility it will be this fall for Fr. Rafael and me to supervise **ten seminarians!** We look forward to mentoring these young men in formation for the priesthood—two Dominicans, three from the IVE community, a Paulist, and four diocesan seminarians from Theological College. Please welcome them in the fall.

Liturgy Update. A team of parishioners has been established to **review our weekend Masses** over the next year and a half. The four constituent parts of the Mass—the Introductory Rite, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Concluding Rite—will be evaluated as to how each is seen and experienced from the viewpoint of **the Mass participant.**



The objective is to identify positive aspects of the liturgical experience, as well as areas for improvement. Review of the first part (the Introductory Rite) is completed and actions are under consideration. Review of the next part (Liturgy of the Word) will occur this fall. Check the parish bulletin for updates.

New Faith Formation Ministries! We are happy to announce two new Cathedral ministries: a **Married Couples Group** that meets biweekly on Tuesday evenings (stmattsmarriedcouplesgroup@gmail.com), and **Landings, a welcoming ministry** for those who have been away from the Church and would like “a safe place to land” (tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org) that meets on Sunday afternoons.

Building up the Kingdom. Please, pray regularly for the vitality and well-being of our parish. I also **challenge and invite** you to learn more about our ministries and contribute your energy and ideas to St. Matthew's presence and work in the DC area. Participating in building up the Kingdom of God is easier than it may seem. The **Social Justice & Community Services Committee** (socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org), for example, connects people with ways to serve the homeless, support low-income families, advocate for change for the poor, and pray for respect for all human life. Visit the **Join Us** section of our parish website, www.stmatthewscathedral.org/join, or contact Parish Council members Susan Aspey at susanmaspey@yahoo.com, Carmen Mezzera at carmeniezzi@hotmail.com, or David Willis at dwwillis1950@gmail.com. Feel free to contact me at 202-347-3215 or rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org to share your ideas about our ministries.



Parish Expenses. The staff and I are in the process of projecting our **needs for FY 2016-2017.** The budget includes more repairs and maintenance of our physical plant. Much work is still needed on the N Street property, the base of operation for our English and Spanish Language programs, including repair of the water damage in the east wall, and much painting. On the subject of budgets, perhaps a few “did you know” items might be worth your reflection.

- Music: \$364,648
- Sanctuary candles: \$39,000
- Hosts, wine: \$4,900
- Clergy benefits: \$73,628
- Telephone: \$15,000
- Security: \$19,000
- Heating & A/C services: \$22,000
- Utilities: \$146,000
- Property Insurance: \$100,000
- Archdiocesan Education assessment: \$34,500

Electronic Giving. The generosity of *Faith Direct* participants has kept us afloat; costs, however, continue to rise and we need the help of all. **Why not determine what you can afford to donate and sign up for *Faith Direct*? It is simple and it works.** Need more information? Visit at <http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/support/egiving>, or call Pam Erwin at 202-587-5150. We want to continue providing the best in liturgy and music, to evangelize our community, to serve the poor, and to teach the gospel message. With your help, St. Matthew’s can be a beacon of hope to the central business district. All things are possible with God, working through great people like you.



Please know that **I am so grateful** to you. You are great parishioners. Together, with your generosity, we will make this new budget work. God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector



[St. Matthew’s Corpus Christ Procession, May 29 2016](#)
[For more photos, visit our parish Facebook page.](#)