



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

November 2014

My dear parishioners,



Soon we will begin our Advent journey, a unique kind of trip. It is not exactly a business trip, although we will profit from the journey. It is not exactly a vacation, although we will be refreshed and recharged if we go. **It is an inner journey over the landscape of our hearts that takes us to its center to meet this mysterious other whom we know as God.** We have the opportunity to reorient our lives by deepening our intimate communion with God, considering God's vision of what our world is like, rethinking our values and changing our behavior because of our relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Encountering Jesus in Our Midst

Pope Francis shares this reflection on Advent and its sense of joy.

THE FIRST WORD that I wish to say to you: joy! . . . Our joy is not born of having many possessions, but from having encountered a person: Jesus, in our midst. . . . We accompany and follow Jesus, but above all we know that he accompanies us and carries us on his shoulders. This is our joy, this is the hope that we must bring to this world.

Though sad and despairing, the two disciples on the way to Emmaus are not abandoned by Jesus. He walks beside them, patiently explains the Scriptures that spoke of him and stays to share a meal with them. This is God's way of doing things. God is not impatient like us, who often want everything all at once. God is patient with us because God loves us, and those who love are able to understand and inspire confidence. They do not give up or burn bridges but are able to forgive. Let us remember this in our lives as Christians: God always waits for us, even when we have left him behind! God is never far from us, and if we return to him, God is ready to embrace us.

—“Our Advent Journey with Christ: In the Words of Pope Francis,” edited by Steve Mueller (All Saints Press)

It is my wish this Advent and Christmas that you will be free from discouragement and assured that Jesus is always by your side, showering you with deep, lasting hope.

Helping St. Matthew's to Reach Out in Jesus' Name

Even, or perhaps especially, in these hard economic times, St. Matthew's remains committed to bringing life to Jesus' command to love one another. You are the key to fulfilling this mission of caring for the spiritual and physical needs of fellow parishioners and the less fortunate who ask us for help! Your gifts are the lifeline! Will you please consider a special gift to St. Matthew's? You may mail your Christmas offering to the rectory, drop it in the offertory collection, give via Faith Direct (www.faithdirect.net; Church Code: DC284) or donate online at www.stmatthewscathedral.org (choose *Make a Gift* on the website front page, then choose *Donate* under *Make a One-Time Gift*. After providing your address and credit card information, click *Review Donation and Continue*. Choose *Comments* and in the window, type “Christmas.”) Help us to share Christ's love with the hundreds of people who come through our doors. I assure you that you will be remembered at our Masses during the Christmas season. Thank you so much. Muchas gracias.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving



Our parish family will gather on Thanksgiving Day, **November 27** at 10:00 a.m. for a bilingual (English and Spanish) celebration of the Eucharist—the greatest act of thanksgiving for Christians. We are challenged by the words of Psalm 116, “What return can I make to the Lord for all that he gives to me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.” Let us together take the cup of salvation offered at such great cost, making just return to Him of our very selves! Reach deep!

The Thanksgiving Day offertory collection will benefit our Social Justice & Community Services ministries.

Adopt-a-Family: A Special Way to Give Back

The Social Justice Committee will sponsor its very successful Adopt-a-Family Christmas program again this year. Our parish will help 50 needy families, the residents of four homes of the L’Arche Greater Washington community, approximately 80 adults from our Homeless Ministry, and—new this year—homeless children from the DC General Shelter. All will receive gifts through this collective effort in which members of our parish community and local businesses are asked to “adopt” a family or individual in need. There are many ways to help, including one-time commitments that would take only a few hours of your time. For more information, see the bulletin or our website, or call Fr. Rafael Barbieri or Norma Canedo at the rectory.

A Word on Planned Giving

Planned gifts provide important resources to further the Cathedral’s 174-year old mission of continuing Christ’s work here on earth. Bequests allow you to leave something to your parish without loss of comfort or security in your lifetime. If your estate is subject to estate tax, your gift is entitled to an estate tax charitable deduction for its full value. Securities are another option. The best stocks for charitable giving are those that have increased in value, particularly those producing little income. Selling the stock would require payment of capital gains tax. Increases in value of donated stocks, however, are exempt from capital gains tax. A gift of Real Estate offers you the opportunity to make a significant charitable contribution with a tax-friendly outcome. For more information, please contact me or Edward J. D’Antoni, JD, Director of Planned Giving, at 301-853-4573 or dantonie@adw.org. You can accomplish more than you ever thought possible with creative sharing of the gifts you have now to help ensure the work of the Church in the future.

Christmas Flowers and Decorating

Would you like to get into the spirit by helping to decorate the Cathedral a couple of days before Christmas? Please check the bulletin in early December. We also appreciate your help in defraying the cost of the Christmas flowers, plants and trees that beautify the Cathedral. You may mail your Christmas flower offering to the rectory, drop it in the offertory collection, or donate online at www.stmatthewscathedral.org or via Faith Direct at www.faithdirect.net.



May the Lord Jesus bless you as we enter Advent and prepare for Christmas. I hope to see you at many of the upcoming liturgies and events, which are listed in full in the enclosed brochure. I will continue to remember you in my prayers each day. May the birth of Christ be a time of great hope and blessings for you and your family.

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Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector

P.S. Did you know that you can purchase at the rectory Christmas cards featuring the Cathedral’s Crèche in boxed sets of 10? For delivery by mail, contact us at perwin@stmatthewscathedral.org.