



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

November 2017

My dear parishioners,

In recent weeks we have experienced tragedies in New York and Denver, following the terror and loss in Las Vegas. From our 24/7 news world come negative comments of all sorts, exaggerations, half-truths, and confusing statements that distract and divide us. **We need unity. We need hope, and the will to work towards a more just society. Why not start with the social teachings of the Church?** Together let's look at issues of life from conception to natural death (see Pope Francis' statement on the death penalty), immigration, the economy, and racism (see Cardinal Wuerl's powerful pastoral letter on racism), and other challenges facing America. And together, let's pray that all will come together to work for peace and justice.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gather with your parish family at 10am on Thanksgiving Day, **November 23** for a bilingual (English and Spanish) celebration of the Eucharist—the greatest act of thanksgiving for Christians. Psalm 116 challenges us: **"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's together accept the cup of salvation offered at such great cost and make just return to Him of our very selves! The Thanksgiving Day offertory will benefit the many Social Justice ministries at St. Matthew's – reach deep!

Seeing the Hopeful Signs

Advent invites us to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming anew so that we and our world may be touched and transformed by God's mercy and love. One way to use this opportunity profitably is to reflect on Pope Francis' words to the U. S. Congress and adopt our own small steps towards changing ourselves and our world:

"All of us are quite aware of, and deeply worried by, the disturbing social and political situation of the world today. Our world is increasingly a place of violent conflict, hatred and brutal atrocities, committed even in the name of God and of religion. Our response must be one of hope and healing, of justice and peace. Our efforts must aim at restoring hope, righting wrongs, maintaining commitments, and thus promoting the well-being of individuals and of peoples in a renewed spirit of fraternity and solidarity, cooperating generously for the common good."

—Pope Francis, address to the U. S. Congress on September 24, 2015

During each of the four weeks of Advent, let us focus on one of the four themes suggested by Pope Francis—**hope and healing, justice and peace.**

Helping St. Matthew's to Give Hope & Help

You, our parishioners, are the key to fulfilling St. Matthew's mission of bringing life to Jesus' command to love one another. Will you please consider a special Christmas gift to St. Matthew's? You may mail your **Christmas offering** to the rectory, drop it in the offertory collection, donate online at www.stmatthewscathedral.org (choose *Make a Gift* on the website front page, then *Donate* under *Make a One-Time Gift*. After typing your address and credit card information, click *Review Donation and Continue*. Choose *Comments* and type "Christmas."), or via Faith Direct (www.faithdirect.net; Church Code: DC284). Thank you so much. Muchas gracias.

I thank all who participated in our **Offertory Appeal**. The weekly offertory is our mainstay, the one source we count on, and from which we pay our daily expenses. A full report on the Appeal will be sent to you soon.

Planned gifts also are an important resource for our mission. 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 the Planned Giving Office of the Archdiocese at 301-853-4573.

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

The Cathedral will sponsor its very successful **Adopt-a-Family Christmas program** again this year. We will help 63 families in need, the residents of four homes of the L'Arche Greater Washington community, youth from DC General family shelter, and approximately 90 adults from our Homeless Ministry. All will receive gifts through this communal effort in which members of our parish community and local businesses are invited to "adopt" a family or individual in need. For more information, call Fr. Agustín López or Norma Canedo at the Rectory.

Partake With Us!

On Sunday, **November 26**, the Feast of Christ the King, Cathedral Organist Paul Hardy will present an Organ Recital at 3:15pm. Advent begins the following Sunday, **December 3**. Enclosed is our Advent and Christmas brochure (highlights below). **Note the new time of 5:30pm for the early Vigil Mass!**

Saturday, **December 2** from 10am to 3pm – "During Advent God Unveils What Jesus' Dwelling Among Us Truly Means," Advent Day of Recollection in the Great Hall of the Rectory, presented by **Rev. Richard R. DeLillio, OSFS**, Homiletic Editor for *Priest Magazine*

Friday, **December 8** – Masses for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at 5:30pm (Vigil on **December 7**), 7am, 8am, 11am, 12:10pm, 5:30pm, and 7pm (Spanish)

Sunday, **December 17** at 7:30pm – Lessons and Carols, featuring the Schola Cantorum and Festival Singers, followed by Christmas caroling, sweets, eggnog and wassail in the Great Hall
Tuesday, **December 19** at 12:10pm – Advent Communal Penance Service with many priests, including confessors in American Sign, Spanish, and other languages

Did you know that you may purchase **Christmas cards** featuring the Cathedral's Crèche (in boxed sets of 10 with envelopes) in the rectory? For delivery by mail, contact Gloria Harrington at gharrington@stmatthewscathedral.org.

Christmas Eve

Note New Time! → Vigil Mass of Christmas at **5:30pm**
Msgr. Jameson, celebrant
Musical prelude at 5pm
Solemn Mass of Christmas at 10pm
Cardinal Donald Wuerl, celebrant
Tickets NOT required
Musical Prelude at 9:15pm

Christmas Day

Masses at 8:30am, 10am and 11:30am, and 1pm (Spanish)

Christmas Flowers and Decorating

Would you like to get into the spirit by helping to decorate the Cathedral a couple of days before Christmas? **Check the bulletin in early December.** Your help also is needed to help defray the cost of the flowers, plants and trees. 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. Together, we can make the Cathedral splendid with beauty this Christmas!

May the Lord Jesus bless you as we prepare for Christmas. 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.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector