



175TH ANNIVERSARY

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE
Sharing the Joy of the Gospel in Our Nation's Capital for 175 Years

September 2015

My dear parishioners,

Here it is the end of August. A rush of phone requests for marriage preparation, baptisms, and of course, tickets for the Papal Mass in a few weeks. These days are filled with meetings about the visit of Pope Francis as well as the events celebrating our 175th Anniversary. My vacation seems a distant memory! It was fantastic, but now, reality has returned!

	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
Baptisms	127	137	147	155
Marriages	71	64	99	68
Funerals	7	17	9	9
First Communion	49	39	33	45
Confirmations	179	167	149	154

Sacramental Life at St. Matthew's

August is the month for sharing statistics with the Archdiocese on sacramental life. Note at left the numbers of marriages—high as they are, they reflect only couples who are married at the Cathedral and not the many others whom we prepare for marriage and are wed elsewhere. Yes, we are a sacramentally and

spiritually vibrant parish! On that note, please pray for the families and catechists of our children's religious education program as they begin a new year, and for our newest RCIA Inquirers.

Our Financial Picture

It's also time to give the Archdiocese a complete financial picture of the parish. Last month our Finance Council approved the financial statement for 2014-2015 and the budget for 2015-2016. This past year our operating income was \$2,506,572 and our operating expenses were \$2,512,517, leaving us with a deficit of \$5,945. Consider the sample of expenses at right; to these, add our music ministry costs of around \$325,000 annually. We were truly blessed last year to receive a \$100,000 bequest from a very good friend of St. Matthew's. This gift *really* helped to reduce our deficit.

Expense	\$
Sanctuary candles	38,108
Faith Formation programs (English and Spanish)	75,289
Telephone	14,679
Rectory security	17,320
Heating/AC maintenance	21,194
Electricity	107,781
Property insurance	87,000
Offertory assessment	134,140
Interparish school support	55,891

Your Parish Needs You—Let's Do This Together!

Special gifts and significant bequests are never guaranteed. To meet our budget in this new fiscal year, **I need the help of all 3,135 parish**

households. Last year, 942 households gave an identifiable offertory gift. **If all households not giving an identifiable gift were to give even a few dollars each week via Faith Direct, our online giving program (www.faithdirect.net; parish code DC284), we would erase our deficit.** Please consider giving the value of a cup of Starbucks coffee or one beer each week to help us meet our budget, which is not extravagant. Ask the Finance Council, who will affirm: it is bare-bones.

Consider that St. Matthew's is here to serve your spiritual needs. We are here when you want to be married, have your child baptized, or need a sponsor letter to be a godparent, or a letter of recommendation. Our priests offer Christ's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and help you to encounter Jesus at our weekly Eucharist with good liturgy, good preaching and magnificent music. Our cathedral is a beautiful and sacred space in which to simply chat with God and listen to his voice, in peace and quiet. All of this requires salaries, heating and AC, upkeep and preventive maintenance, repairs and insurance—24/7. **We need your help! Please consider enrolling in Faith Direct, which makes it easy to give!**

Annual Health & Wellness Fair

Our Health & Wellness Fair is coming up—stop by Sunday, **September 13** between 9:30am to 3:30pm in the North and East Conference Rooms, and look for the Eye-van stationed in front of the Cathedral steps. The fair will offer information in English and Spanish, and simple exams to help promote good health. Attending will be health providers in the areas of vision, bone density, women's health, HIV testing, balance and strength, mental health, blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, cancer prevention, dental health, nutrition, and administration of flu shots. For more information or to volunteer, contact Gregg Glotnis at gglotnis@verizon.net.

An Opportunity to Join the Parish Pastoral Council

In early November we will hold elections for our Parish Pastoral Council, which advises and assists me in developing, organizing and supporting programs and ministries to enhance our parish's spiritual and temporal life. Whether you are a longstanding parishioner or new to the parish, serving on the Council is a great way to participate in and help to shape our community life. Information on the election will be published soon in our parish media. I hope you will thoughtfully consider this call to service.

St. Matthew's Parish 175th Anniversary Celebration

I am delighted to announce that after 20 years, we have signed a contract for the completion of our grand organ—a great way to mark our 175th Anniversary! No parish funds will be used for this project; rather, it will be made possible through a major bequest, many individual gifts, and a few special donations.

Our anniversary celebration began in January with a very successful ecumenical service of religious leaders in this area of the city, followed in April by a truly magnificent talk by Cardinal Sean O'Malley, who began his priesthood here at St. Matthew's. In June we held a reunion of the former priests, deacons and lay staff of the Cathedral (a fantastic time was had by all), and served a special dinner for our homeless guests. Later this month Pope Francis is coming to Washington to help us celebrate our anniversary!! Well, maybe that's not totally accurate!

Planning is at full tilt for our 175th Anniversary Gala in October. Soon you will receive an invitation to join us at the National Press Club on **October 17** for a grand evening of cocktails, dinner and dancing. **November 1**, the Solemnity of All Saints, is the date of our major anniversary event: a special bilingual Mass with Cardinal Wuerl at Noon followed by a reception at the Madison Hotel. Later in November, the Cathedral's Schola Cantorum and Festival Singers will present a special anniversary concert. So much is happening here at St. Matthew's! Won't you participate and be a part of our magnificent anniversary celebration?

What a great opportunity to celebrate Church. We are the Church, the body of Christ in this part of the city. All should be able to see Christ actively present here at St. Matthew's, and our parish as a beacon of His light. What will we look like in 3 years? How can we look at what we do through a different lens? How can we bring the Church alive in this 21st century? As we are called to do in our personal lives, so as a parish let us bring to mind and learn from our past as we examine our life today, and weave a future in which all share and participate in the abundance of God.

I look forward to our working, praying and building together an even better parish community. God bless.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector