



175TH ANNIVERSARY

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

September 2016

My dear parishioners,

Here it is August. One hundred-degree weather the last two days as I write this! We are busy preparing for the fall activities for Faith Formation and Social Justice. Deacon Merella and I are looking ahead to the whole year's calendar. And both the Parish Council and Finance Council are planning for the next three years—strategic planning. What can I say? A lot is happening!

	2015-2016	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
Baptisms	109	127	137	147	155
Marriages	65	71	64	99	68
Funerals	12	7	17	9	9
First Communion	37	49	39	33	45
Confirmations	178	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 2015-2016 and the budget for 2016-2017. This past year our operating income was \$3,156,473 and our operating expenses were \$2,969,265. Consider the sample of expenses at right; to these, add our music ministry costs of around \$350,000 annually. We were truly blessed last year to receive \$368,697 in bequests from very good friends of St. Matthew's. These gifts *really* helped to reduce our deficit.

Expense	\$
Sanctuary candles	32,101
Faith Formation programs (English and Spanish)	90,531
Telephone	12,968
Rectory security	20,303
Heating/AC maintenance	22,338
Electricity	132,404
Property insurance	97,796
Offertory assessment	140,194
Interparish school support	58,414

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 1,998 parish**

households. Last year, 925 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 could avoid running a deficit for 2016-2017.** 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 11** between 9:30am and 3:30pm in the North and East Conference Rooms, and look for the Eye-van stationed in front of the Cathedral. The fair will offer information in English and Spanish, and simple exams to help promote good health in areas such as vision, bone density, women’s health, HIV testing, balance and strength, mental health, blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, cancer prevention, dental health, and nutrition. For more information or to volunteer to work at the event, contact Gregg Glotnis (gglotnis@verizon.net).

A Call to Serve in the Year of Mercy – Social Justice Ministries

To quote Pope Francis: “Let us be renewed by God’s mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy...” To learn about volunteer service opportunities with our Social Justice & Community Service Ministries, drop by a committee meeting (every fourth Monday at 6:45pm in the East Conference Room), contact Fr. Rafael Barbieri or Norma Canedo (socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org), visit <http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/outreach>, or call the rectory.

Faith Formation - Early Fall News

Contact Theresa Prymuszewski (tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org) on these early fall offerings:

- **Sunday Children’s Faith Formation.** Classes have begun, with many new catechists, substitutes and a newly appointed on-site assistant joining this year’s catechist team!
- **Landings International.** This 8-week series for Returning Catholics begins on **September 25**. Contact Deacon Stuart Wilson-Smith (swilsonsmith@paulist.org).
- **Married Couples Group.** Our newest Cathedral ministry continues to draw 10 or more new, and more seasoned, married couples to a biweekly series on *Theology of the Family*.
- **“The Isis Genocide on the Christians in the Middle East.”** An interactive lecture by Nina Shea of the Hudson Institute, will be given on **October 25**.
- **Archdiocesan Faith Foundation Course.** This course once again will be offered at St. Matthew’s, on **October 6, 13, 20, 27** and **November 10 and 17**.

An Opportunity to Join the Parish Pastoral Council

In early November we will hold elections for our Parish Pastoral Council, which advises me and assists in developing programs to enhance our parish life. Whether you are a longstanding parishioner or new to the parish, serving on the Council is a great way to help shape our community life. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Carmen Mezzera (carmeniezzi@hotmail.com), Krista Cox (Krista.L.Cox@gmail.com), or Dan Evans (dsevans00@verizon.net). Don’t think the Council is right for you? Check out these other ways to get involved: <http://stmatthewscathedral.org/join/opportunities>.

Liturgical Ministry Recruiting

Each week our parish needs a minimum of 175 liturgical ministers (lectors, servers, and hospitality and communion ministers) to cover weekday and weekend Masses. On **September 17 and 18**, we will make a special appeal for liturgical ministers. At each Mass, parishioners will be invited to indicate interest in volunteering on a “ministry interest” form in the pews (also in the bulletin). Those who respond will be contacted by a Parish Council Stewardship Committee member to confirm their interest. Volunteers will be notified by a Ministry Coordinator about ministry training. If you will be absent that weekend and are interested, contact David Willis (dwwillis1950@gmail.com) or Deacon Merella (bmerella@verizon.net).

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

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@msgrjameson (*Follow the leader!*) Did you know that Msgr. Jameson is on Twitter?

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector