



175TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

This year the community of St. Matthew's Cathedral is celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the parish.

Because of your steadfast support, St. Matthew's is a spiritual home to Catholics throughout the Washington area. The Cathedral attracts visitors from around the world, of all faith traditions. People come here to pray, to be inspired by sacred music, to spend a few quiet minutes with our Lord, to receive the sacraments. Couples come to marry and to baptize their children. Grieving families come to mourn loved ones. Homeless men and women come for sanctuary and assistance. Without your support, St. Matthew's would not be able to serve the physical and spiritual needs of our community.

From its beginning at 15th and H Streets NW, through its move to Rhode Island Avenue, NW after 1893 and its designation as the Cathedral of the new Archdiocese of Washington in 1939, St. Matthew's has played a central role in the Catholic life of Washington, DC. World leaders crowded the Cathedral for the funeral of President John F. Kennedy. Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass at the Cathedral. U. S. Supreme Court justices and other leaders of the legal community gather each year on the Sunday before the first Monday in October for the Red Mass. Later this year Pope Francis will visit the Cathedral to pray with the U.S. Bishops.

Every day you impact many lives through your gifts of time, talent and treasure. You are a critical part of the life of St. Matthew's Cathedral Parish. I thank you for all you have done to support our ministry.

To recognize and celebrate all the living stones of our community, we are hosting many special Anniversary events. Already, the inaugural event in January brought together Washington area faith communities for a beautiful Choral Vespers and Ecumenical Prayer Service. In April, Cardinal Seán O'Malley gave a wonderful talk remembering his years of service as a young priest at St. Matthew's and the impact our parish had on his life. In June, we held a special dinner for our homeless neighbors.

Additional important events are still ahead: a multicultural celebration on October 11, a Gala on October 17, a special 175th Anniversary Mass and Reception on November 1, a major concert on November 22 and Advent Lessons and Carols on December 13. All this, **and** we must continue our ongoing ministries of social justice, music, faith formation, hospitality, and other efforts.

I write now to invite you to participate in our Celebration in a very special way: as a financial patron.

Will you invest in the future of St. Matthew's and serve as a 175th Anniversary Host (\$10,000 gift), a Benefactor (\$5,000 gift), a Patron (\$2,500 gift), a Sustainer (\$1,000 gift), a Sponsor (\$500 gift) or a Friend (\$250 gift) for our 175th Anniversary Celebration?

A gift at the Host, Benefactor or Patron level is recognized with reserved seats at the Gala on October 17 as described in the [Reply Form](#). The Gala, which will be held in the Ballroom of the National Press Club, will feature a cocktail reception, sit-down dinner and live music with dancing. It will be great fun and a wonderful opportunity to build our St. Matthew's community!

Your leadership gift will make our 175th Anniversary celebration possible, while continuing our outreach to people in spiritual and material need throughout the Washington area.

I am so excited about this 175th Anniversary celebration. It celebrates not only our parish heritage, but also our graced growth into a vibrant, diverse community that is alive in Christ's love. It secures our future ability to bring that love and care to others here in the heart of Washington, DC.

Please read over the [Reply Form](#) and prayerfully consider what part you will play in this milestone celebration. Feel free to call me if you have any questions or want to discuss any aspect of your support.

I look forward to seeing you soon and hope you will participate in our historic 175th Anniversary Celebration!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector

P.S. I hope you will consider making a special gift in this anniversary year by completing the Reply Form or clicking [here](#) to donate online. God bless you for all you do in our community.