



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

November 2018

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

A central message of Advent is hope. In a beautiful seasonal reflection, Janet Schaeffler says the following:

"A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices ..."

Often when we think of a "weary world," we realize how much it describes our world today: fractured relationships, disappointments, worry, illness, grief, hunger and homelessness, violence, international conflict and war, political and interracial unrest.

Yet this line—"a thrill of hope the weary world rejoices"—from our much-loved Christmas hymn "O Holy Night," describes the world of Jesus' time as well as our time too.

In our journey to wholeness—to holiness—we as a human family are always struggling with our imperfections, our selfishness, and our need to be first, powerful, and in control. Yet, in the midst of that, there are always thrills of hope—hope because God lives within our midst, hope because many, many people respond to the call to be hope-filled, caring people for others.

When asked why he called the Second Vatican Council, Pope St. John XXIII replied, "To make the human sojourn a little less sad." He knew that it was the role of the church, the role of Jesus' disciples, to walk with others in heartfelt hope and compassionate caring, especially amid the challenges of life.

. . . . In a troubled, imperfect world, our Advent-Christmas season reminds us that we have reasons to be grateful and rejoice—because of the One who brings us hope by becoming one of us, intimately walking our journey with us.

—"A Thrill of Hope," by Janet Schaeffler, OP (Twenty-Third Publications) © 2015

These past few months we have experienced darkness. We need **light** and **hope** and **unity**. It has been a difficult time. But we can't do without Jesus; he is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is the one we can't let go of. 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

We at St. Matthew's are 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! **Please consider making a special gift this year.** Your whole gift goes only to the parish. You may mail your 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 *Donate* under *Make a One-Time Gift*. After providing address and credit card information, click *Review Donation and Continue*. Choose *Comments* and type "Christmas.") **You will be remembered at our Christmas season Masses.** Thank you so much. Muchas gracias.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

We gather on Thanksgiving Day, **November 22** 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 Ps. 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! The Thanksgiving offertory collection will benefit our Social Justice & Community Services ministries.

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 more than 65 needy families, the residents of four homes of the L’Arche Greater Washington community, children from DC General family shelter, and approximately 100 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 Lopez or Norma Canedo at the rectory.

Worship and Otherwise Partake with Us!

Enclosed is our Advent and Christmas brochure, with some highlights below.

- ~ **Advent Day of Recollection**, “Uncovering the Advent Themes of Scripture while Exploring our Personal Life Journey,” led by Margaret Matijasevic, Executive Director for the National Conference of Catechetical Leaders, Saturday, **December 1**, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Great Hall
- ~ **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**, a holy day of obligation, with a 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass on Friday, **December 7**, and Masses at 8:00 a.m. and 12:10 p.m. on Saturday, **December 8**
- ~ **Festival of Lessons and Carols**, an Evening Service of Music and Reflections on the Coming of Our Lord, followed by the singing of Christmas Carols in the Great Hall, with Christmas sweets and wassail, Sunday, **December 16** beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- ~ **“Come Home for Christmas,”** Advent Penance Service, Tuesday, **December 18** at 12:10 p.m., with more than fifteen priests available for confessions in several languages
- ~ **Christmas Masses** – Vigil Masses of Christmas on Monday, **December 24** at 4:30 p.m. with a 4:00 p.m. prelude by our Contemporary Choir; Solemn Mass of Christmas at 10:00 p.m. with a prelude by the Schola Cantorum at 9:15 p.m. (no Midnight Mass), and Christmas Day Masses on Tuesday, **December 25** at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. (Spanish).

Christmas Cards, and Christmas Flowers and Decorating

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 us at gharrington@stmatthewscathedral.org. 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.



I hope to see you this Advent and 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.

Stay Connected and Spread the Word!

Website www.stmatthewscathedral.org
Facebook www.facebook.com/st.matthews.cathedral
Twitter [msgrjameson](https://twitter.com/msgrjameson)
Instagram [stmatthewsdc](https://www.instagram.com/stmatthewsdc)
360° Virtual Tour tour.stmatthewscathedral.org

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector

A *dvent*



C *hristmas*

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Friday, November 30

**MASS AND PRAYER VIGIL FOR
WORLD AIDS DAY**

AND FOR ALL THOSE WHO SUFFER

Mass (bilingual in English and Spanish) at 5:30PM
followed by Candlelight Prayer Vigil on the Cathedral steps
Reception following the Prayer Vigil
NORTH CONFERENCE ROOM

Saturday, December 1

ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION

UNCOVERING THE ADVENT THEMES
OF SCRIPTURE, WHILE EXPLORING
OUR PERSONAL LIFE JOURNEY
10:00AM – 3:00PM

Presented by Margaret Matijasevic,
Executive Director for National Conference
of Catechetical Leaders
GREAT HALL OF THE RECTORY

Sunday, December 2

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Regular schedule of Masses
Blessing and Lighting of
the Advent Wreath at all Masses
Hospitality Receptions following
the 8:30AM, 10:00AM, † 11:30AM
and 1:00PM Masses

Gift items from the Holy Land available
for sale at the Hospitality Receptions by
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation
NORTH CONFERENCE ROOM

Saturday, December 8

**SOLEMNITY OF
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Holy Day of Obligation

Schedule of Masses:

5:30PM Vigil Mass (December 7)
8:00AM Mass
12:10PM

† ~ Interpreted for the deaf

Sunday, December 9

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Regular schedule of Masses

CELEBRATION OF

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

1:00PM Mass (en español)

Refreshments and Music following the
8:30AM, 10:00AM, † 11:30AM
and 1:00PM Masses
NORTH CONFERENCE ROOM

Sunday, December 16

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Regular schedule of Masses

**FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS,
AN EVENING SERVICE OF
MUSIC AND REFLECTIONS ON
THE COMING OF OUR LORD**
7:30PM

Schola Cantorum and Festival Singers
followed by
CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Christmas Sweets, Eggnog and Wassail
GREAT HALL OF THE RECTORY

Tuesday, December 18

ADVENT COMMUNAL

PENANCE SERVICE

“COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS”

† 12:10PM

Many priest confessors available, including
confessors in American Sign, Spanish,
and other languages

No 11:00AM Confessions or 12:10PM Mass

Sunday, December 23

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Regular Schedule of Masses

† ~ Interpreted for the deaf

All Cathedral music events are open to the public.
Donations are accepted and appreciated.

Monday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

A CHRISTMAS PRELUDE

4:00PM

The Contemporary Choir

VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS

4:30PM

A CHRISTMAS PRELUDE

9:15PM

The Schola Cantorum and Festival Singers

† **SOLEMN MASS OF CHRISTMAS**

10:00PM

Blessing of the Manger Scene

The Rectory closes at 2:00PM.

Tuesday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

The Cathedral opens at 7:30AM.

Schedule of Masses:

8:30AM

10:00AM

† 11:30AM

1:00PM (en español)

The Cathedral closes after the 1:00PM Mass.

The Rectory is closed.

Wednesday, December 26

FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN

Masses at 8:00AM and 12:10PM only

No 11:00AM Confessions

The Cathedral closes at 1:00PM.

The Rectory is closed.

Sunday, December 30

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF

JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Regular schedule of Masses

Monday, December 31

The Rectory is closed.

*For Holy Day Vigil Mass on December 31,
see Schedule of Masses for January 1.*

† ~ Interpreted for the deaf

2019

Tuesday, January 1

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

Holy Day of Obligation

Schedule of Masses:

5:30PM Vigil Mass (December 31)

Masses on January 1:

The Cathedral opens at 9:00AM

10:00AM

11:30AM

1:00PM (en español)

The Cathedral closes after the 1:00PM Mass.

The Rectory is closed.

Sunday, January 6

**SOLEMNITY OF
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

Regular schedule of Masses

Sunday, January 13

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Regular schedule of Masses

Please help all of us to enjoy the beauty of the Christmas Season by making a contribution in the envelopes marked "Flower Offering" that can be found in the pews. These offerings permit us to decorate the Cathedral appropriately for the holy days with noble simplicity. Thank you for your support and generosity.



Rectory Telephone: 202-347-3215

Rectory Facsimile: 202-347-7184

Email:

cathstmatt@stmatthewscathedral.org

Website:

www.stmatthewscathedral.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/st.matthews.cathedral

Twitter:

[@msgrjameson](https://twitter.com/msgrjameson)

Instagram:

[@stmatthewsdc](https://www.instagram.com/stmatthewsdc)

360° Virtual Tour:

tour.stmatthewscathedral.org

The Cathedral is located at

1725 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.,

between Connecticut Avenue and 17th Street.

The Cathedral is open Sunday from 6:30AM until 7:00PM, Monday through Friday from 6:30AM until 6:30PM, and Saturday from 7:30AM until 7:00PM, unless otherwise noted.

The nearest Metrorail stations are on the Red Line at Farragut North and Dupont Circle. Several Metrobus routes stop at Connecticut Avenue and M Street a short distance from the Cathedral. For further information or directions, please call the Rectory at 202-347-3215.

The Rectory has the same street address as the Cathedral. The Rectory entrance is located three doors to the right of the Cathedral main entrance, on Rhode Island Avenue. The Rectory is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00AM until 8:00PM and Friday through Sunday from 9:00AM until 4:00PM, unless otherwise noted.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

2018

**Schedule of
Liturgies & Events**



*"What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it."*

JOHN 1:4-5

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson, V.F.

Rector

Rev. Agustín López

Parochial Vicar

CATHEDRAL OF
ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

