



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

March 2023

My dear parishioners,

Lent is passing quickly; Holy Week begins in less than a week. We mark so many dramatic events at this time: Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem; his poignant last meal with his friends; his trial and brutal execution. But the darkness of Good Friday leads inexorably to the glorious "Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!" of Easter Sunday. It is our annual pilgrimage into both the darkness of human existence and the life-giving light of the Resurrection.



Master the Trick

Dr. Joseph Sica has provided me with Easter reflections for many years. I wanted to share this one with you, from three years ago.

Red Smith said, "Dying is no big deal; the least of us will manage it. Living is the trick!" The only way to master the trick is stop hedging from life and to live every day hugging it.

Life-hedgers are dominated by fear. It stops them from experiencing new opportunities. They'd rather play it safe. We can't let fear influence our choices or keep us from pursuing our dreams.

Life-huggers recognize fear and tame it. They know that what they want out of life is on the other side of fear. They watch for what life has to offer: a stranger's kindness, the mystery of romance, a child's question, a spouse's commitment, a majestic sunrise, the beauty of a well-timed touch. They know bumps in the road can produce gifts that can change, challenge, or strengthen them. They stop, adapt, and move on. Life-huggers carve out time to speak to God daily and update him on their lives. Then they take time to listen to his voice.

Push yourself further each day. Embrace each part of your life and let it nourish your soul.

—Lenten Blessings Await, Joseph F. Sica, Twenty-third Publications (2020)

My prayer for you this Easter is that the light of the Resurrection will fill you once again and remain with you throughout the year. May the Risen Lord grant peace to our world.

Holy Week at the Cathedral

Holy Week is always so special at St. Matthew's. In the past, thousands of people have come to celebrate the greatest week of the liturgical year, heralded by the blessing of palms, marked by beautiful and somber liturgies, and ending with the triumphant Resurrection of our Lord. The preparations for these overflowing celebrations are a labor of love—how we look forward to welcoming you and to being uplifted by your love of the Lord!

Holy Week will have more of a pre-pandemic feel this year. Everyone is welcome, with **no mask requirement**, though masks are encouraged out of consideration for the vulnerable among us. While more people are coming to Mass these days, apparently many still do not feel comfortable returning to the Cathedral. I can assure you that we are among the safest venues you will find. Come and celebrate the greatest liturgy of the year with us! Jesus sacrificed his very life for us, dying on the cross. But he rose from the dead on Easter Sunday—rising from death to new life. **Join us for a new life!** Let us leave the darkness of Covid for the bright light of the Resurrection. Being truly **an Easter people—an Alleluia people**—we trust that the Lord will be with us as we make the jump!

Holy Week Liturgies



This year the Cathedral will once again mark Holy Week with many special liturgies and music events. **Cardinal Gregory** will be here, including on Holy Saturday when **7 catechumens will be baptized at the Easter Vigil, and 7 candidates will be received into full communion.** We also want to see you and all our visitors! See the enclosed schedule of Holy Week and Easter

liturgies—Monday’s Chrism Mass with the priests of the archdiocese, Tuesday’s Communal Penance Service, Tenebrae on Wednesday, Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, “Seven Last Words” and Liturgies of the Lord’s Passion (English and Spanish) on Good Friday, the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, and the great celebration of The Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday!

Your Easter Offering



Special Easter Offering envelopes and Easter Flowers envelopes are in the pews. You may mail your offering to the rectory, drop it in the offertory basket, or give via **FaithDirect** (membership.faithdirect.net/enroll/DC284). You also may donate via **PayPal** with debit and credit card options. Just scan the QR code at left or visit stmatthewscathedral.org/support. **I will sincerely appreciate your Easter gift this year. We really need a healthy Easter collection to meet our budget.** You will be remembered at our Easter season Masses. Thank you so much. Muchas gracias.

Special Request

Something more is motivating my hopes for a good Easter collection. Yes, we want to balance our budget, which we currently project to be **\$37,000 in deficit.** However, we also have a **few needs over and above our budgeted operations.** It has been 20 years since completion of the Cathedral restoration, and 17 years since completion of the rectory and parish offices. Small items are giving us problems: the closure on a front door to the Cathedral, the heat pump for Fr. Benson’s room, the ice maker, and our chimney. Yes—our chimney, although not in use, looks like the leaning tower of Pisa! A structural engineer is coming out this week. The Education Center on N Street, used for our Children’s Religious Education and ESL programs, needs much work. Some repairs must be made soon, while others must be deferred to the next budget cycle. **I need your help.** I really appreciate your considering a little extra donation this Easter. Muchas Gracias! God bless!

Annual Appeals

I thank those who contributed so generously to the 2022 Annual Appeal and those who already have made their gift to the 2023 Annual Appeal. If you have not done so, I would ask you now to **consider a gift to this year’s appeal,** which provides for the day-to-day needs of the least of our brothers and sisters. It also helps our seminarians and retired priests in the areas of retirement funding and long-term care. Please do what you can. They really need your help now. You may donate online at give.adw.org/.



Finally, Happy Easter! May this season bring you much joy, love and peace. This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2023

All are welcome!

Liturgies are open to the public with no tickets needed.

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

The Cathedral opens at 6:30am and closes at 7:00pm. Masses with the distribution of palms:

- 5:30pm (Sat., April 1 Vigil) (Cantor)
- 7:00am
- 9:00am (Cantor)
- † 11:00am with Blessing of Palms, **CARDINAL WILTON GREGORY**, Archbishop of Washington (Schola Cantorum) (ADW LIVESTREAM)
- 1:00pm (en español) with Blessing of Palms & Procession, **MOST REV. JUAN ESPOSITO-GARCIA**, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington (Coro Hispano) (CATHEDRAL LIVESTREAM)
- 2:00pm Via Crucis (en español) (después de la Misa en español a la 1:00pm)
- 5:30pm (Contemporary Choir)

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK, APRIL 3

- 7:00am *The Cathedral opens.*
- 7:30am | Mass
- 8:30am *The Cathedral closes and reopens at 1:00pm.*
- † 2:00pm | Chrism Mass, **CARDINAL WILTON GREGORY** (Schola Cantorum) (ADW LIVESTREAM)
- 5:30pm | Mass (*The Cathedral closes at 7:00pm.*)

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK, APRIL 4

The Cathedral opens at 7:00am and closes at 7:00pm.

- 7:30am | Mass
- † 12:10pm | "Come Home for Easter," Communal Penance Service (Cantor)
- 5:30pm | Mass

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK, APRIL 5

The Cathedral opens at 7:00am and closes after the 7:30pm Tenebrae Service.

- 7:30am | Mass
- 11:00am – 12 Noon | Confessions
- 12:10pm | Mass
- 5:30pm | Mass
- 6:15 – 7:00pm | Confessions
- 7:30pm | Liturgy of Tenebrae (Schola Cantorum)

† - *Interpreted for the Deaf*

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 6

The Cathedral opens at 8:00am and closes immediately after Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

- 9:00am | Morning Prayer in the St. Anthony Chapel
- 11:00am – 12 Noon | Confessions
- 12:10pm | Mass of the Lord's Supper (Contemporary Choir)
- † 5:30pm | Mass of the Lord's Supper with Washing of the Feet, **CARDINAL WILTON GREGORY** (Schola Cantorum) (ADW LIVESTREAM)
- 7:00pm | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the St. Anthony Chapel
- 9:45pm | Night Prayer in the St. Anthony Chapel
- 10:00pm | Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7

The Cathedral opens at 8:00am and closes immediately after Stations of the Cross.

- 9:00am | Morning Prayer in the St. Anthony Chapel
- 11:00am – 12 Noon | Confessions
- 12 Noon | Reflection on the Lord's Passion, **SARA FAIRBANKS, OP, PHD** (Schola Cantorum)
- 1:00pm | Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, **CARDINAL WILTON GREGORY** (Schola Cantorum) (ADW LIVESTREAM)
- 4:00pm | Liturgia de la Pasión de N.S. Jesucristo, Adoración de la Santa Cruz, y Santa Comunción (en español), **MOST REV. JUAN ESPOSITO-GARCIA** (CATHEDRAL LIVESTREAM)
- 7:30pm | Stations of the Cross (in English)

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8

- 8:00am *The Cathedral opens.*
- 9:00am | Morning Prayer in the St. Anthony Chapel
- 11:00am – 12 Noon | Confessions
- 12 Noon *The Cathedral closes and reopens at 7:00pm.*
- † 8:00pm | Easter Vigil, **CARDINAL WILTON GREGORY** (Schola Cantorum) (ADW LIVESTREAM) (*The Cathedral closes immediately after the Vigil.*)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

The Cathedral opens at 6:30am and closes at 7:00pm. Masses:

- 7:00am
- † 9:00am, **CARDINAL WILTON GREGORY** (Schola Cantorum) (ADW LIVESTREAM)
- 11:00am (Schola Cantorum)
- 1:00pm (en español) (Coro Hispano) (CATHEDRAL LIVESTREAM)
- 5:30pm (Contemporary Choir)

† - *Interpreted for the Deaf*

Penn Parking Garage Hours:

April 2, Palm Sunday – 8:30am - 7:00pm
April 3 & 4, Monday & Tuesday of Holy Week – 7:00am - 7:00pm
April 5, Wednesday of Holy Week – 7:00am - 9:00pm
April 6, Holy Thursday – 7:00am - 8:00pm
April 7, Good Friday – 7:00am - 8:30pm
April 8, Holy Saturday – 6:30pm - 11:00pm
April 9, Easter Sunday – 8:30am – 7:00pm

