



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

July 2025

My dear parishioners,

Back in the spring of 1995, I remember getting a call from Cardinal Hickey asking me to come to his office. At the time I was his Secretary for Parish Life and Worship. I had been working on a document for him so I thought he was looking for an update. I picked up the draft from my desk and went to the Cardinal's office which was just around the corner. We chatted about how the job was going and then he said he had a favor to ask of me. He then totally surprised me by saying he wanted me to be the new Rector of St. Matthew's Cathedral. I was speechless. I was humbled. I was a simple country boy from Southern Maryland being asked by the Cardinal to be his representative at the Mother Church of the Archdiocese.

On July 1st of this year, I will celebrate my 30th anniversary of being the Rector of this Cathedral. Where have the years gone? I've had the privilege—the unexpected privilege—of serving as Rector of this historic Cathedral—your pastor—for all of these magnificent years. Thirty years! That's more than half of my fifty-seven years as a priest. And, of course, I also spent eleven years of my early years as a priest here at the Cathedral when I was the Director of Liturgy for the Archdiocese. So that makes forty-one years here altogether. That is exactly half of my life! The Cathedral has really been my life! You have been a big part of my life. And a blessed and happy life it has been. I stand in awe of all the ways God has blessed me—blessed us—over so many years in this amazing and holy place, and as I do, I am overcome with gratitude.

Today, I renew my commitment to serve you. My wonderful pastoral team and I assure you that we commit ourselves to working with you and for you, to make St. Matthew's a faith community where—

- Everyone feels the welcome of Christ
- Your needs are responded to promptly and courteously
- We can meet Christ in prayerful liturgies, celebrated with beauty and reverence
- The Gospel of Christ is compellingly preached, day in and day out, from the pulpit and in all our parish programs
- You and your children are given opportunities to deepen your knowledge of the faith through challenging faith formation programs, celebrations, and events; and
- Everyone has an opportunity to put their time and their gifts at the service of the Church and the poor

I think my feelings today are very much the same ones I had seven years ago when I celebrated my fifty years as a priest. I was reading just the other day what I said at the end of my anniversary Mass.

“I can’t imagine making this journey without you. I really can’t. You have challenged me and changed me, prodded me and put up with me, loved me and forgiven me, prayed with me and prayed for me. In so many ways I am what I am because of you. So, I’ll say it again: I can’t imagine making this journey without you.

My friends, today is not about me. It’s about God, it’s about Church, it’s about us, and about all the ways that, together, we get to be Church: the hands, the feet, the heart, and the face of the Lord Jesus. What a great calling! How blessed we are!”

My friends, as I reflect on my many years here at the Cathedral, **I also want to recognize and send prayerful best wishes to Ana—as she now serves Cardinal McElroy as his Executive Assistant—and to Mary Ferranti, who is retiring** but will continue to contribute to various projects and looks forward to seeing you around the Cathedral.

I want to sincerely thank both Ana and Mary for their service to our parish family. They helped all of us to grow in our servant leadership. Muchas gracias.

I also want to welcome Lisa Williams to our parish family as my Assistant to the Rector. She is an experienced office manager with a background in administrative support, and her professional journey reflects a deep commitment to service.

Let me end where I started. I have spent a total of 41 years of my priesthood (30 years as your Rector) here at St. Matthew’s. This is truly my home. You are really my family. **Please know how grateful I am to each and every one of you.**

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. Ronald Jameson".

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector