



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

June 2026

My dear parishioners,

Here it is the week after Pentecost when I am starting this letter. The post-Easter Season has been exceptionally busy this year – no real break. We have had First Communions, Confirmations, Weddings, and Baptisms. In June we will have deacon and priest ordinations.

However, that is just part of our story for 2026! Recently we received word from Pope Leo that Bishop Evelio was named the Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; his installation is July 2nd. It was also announced that we have two new auxiliary bishops: Bishop-elect Gary Studniewski and Bishop-elect Robert Boxie. I'm so happy to welcome them to their new roles. I have invited them to join us in the near future to celebrate Mass with us. Their ordination will be July 7th at the National Shrine here in Washington.

Cathedral Budget & Working Together

This is also the month that Laura, our Business Manager, is working hard to prepare our 2026-2027 budget. This is especially challenging this year. Most of our budget items are increasing by leaps and bounds. This year's electric budget has already exceeded its stated amount and we still have two months left (May-June). Unbelievable!! The HealthCare will go up by 15% in the new budget. Many other items will increase as well. You know how that is from your own budgets and expenses.

The major expense in the next year will be the transition to LED lighting. This is not a simple process. There have been many challenges so far. Fortunately, a bequest has been designated for this project.

The good news is that our parish census has increased by 250 this year, which is also reflected in Sunday Mass attendance. Our Sunday offertory collection is up only slightly. The bequest has definitely helped us, but the expenses make it hard to keep our head above water.

As I begin my thirty-second year here at the Cathedral, 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, celebration, and events; and
- Everyone has an opportunity to put their time and their gifts at the service of the Church and the poor

Yes, my friends, it is about working TOGETHER. We ALL have a role to play. Time, talent, and treasure. EACH of us is called to be a disciple of Jesus. Each of us is a part of this parish community. Each of us is called to build up this community. Each of us may do this in different ways.

How am I doing it? Is it by contributing to the parish through ParishSOFT, your envelopes, or a check in the Collection basket? One third of the parish does this by trying to be a good steward. I know it is difficult. Costs are going sky high. But if *each* one gives something—each of the 2500 households makes a BIG difference!! Or some of you might possibly say that you could slightly increase the amount you now give.

The Gift of Time & Talent

There is also another way to be a good steward, a good disciple. You could share your talents or time. There are many opportunities of service to the Church, to our parish community, or to those in need. We are familiar with the Monday Morning Ministry to the homeless. There are those who prepare breakfasts, others give of their time to serve the meals or help to meet the needs of those present. And, of course, this does not mean you will be expected to be present every week. You can set your own schedule.

There is still another important way you can serve your brothers and sisters in the community of the Church and Parish. We come together every week to worship the Lord and to pray together as a COMMUNITY. Liturgy is a communal action. We may think that we are just praying to God all alone, just God and me. But that is private prayer. Liturgy is what we do together (in addition to our private time with God). We pray together (the prayers, the songs, the readings, the sharing of communion). But think about it: we need helpers for the total Mass to happen. Lectors help us to hear the Word of God; servers assist with helping to prepare the altar, to carry the cross and candles, and hold the book for the celebrant; the ministers of hospitality (ushers) take up the collection, of course. But their real service is to welcome everyone to our celebration, to make them feel at home, to acquaint them to the magnificence of the Cathedral. To welcome them to our spiritual home. And you might say, “Communion took a long time today” and “no Communion from the cup again.” The reason: not enough Communion ministers, and I really need EMCs at the 9am Mass. **These ministries, all of them, need your help.** All ministries are in urgent need of volunteers. And assisting every week is NOT required or expected.

Sooo! Think for a moment. **What can I do to help out even once a month?** Call me. Email me. Fr. Joe, the Coordinator of the Ministry or I will call you back or email you. I promise, if you email me at rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org or call me at 202-346-9089. I will be around until my

vacation in July. Then just contact Fr. Joe at jmchenry@stmatthewscathedral.org or call him at 202-347-3215 ext. 536. You will get a return email or a call. Summer sees a special need. People are on vacation. The Religious Sisters and the Seminarian who helped at the 9am Mass weekly will not be here this summer. **Bottom line: we need your assistance.** Give me a call. It will be great to chat with you.

Let's put what I have said in context. It centers around COMMUNITY.

Renewing Community

You may remember the listening sessions we had in the parish a few years ago. Many thoughts were shared. The number one item was the need to foster a sense of community. **We need to be together.** We need to listen to one another. We need to get to know one another. We need to celebrate Eucharist together.

There is also **the most important community we belong to: the Body of Christ.** We come together at Mass to share the very Body and Blood of Christ. We cannot do this by livestream. We receive the Body of Christ so that we can be transformed into the living body of Christ. Jesus transforms us into his very body. We become the person of Jesus himself. We are the visible presence of Jesus to those around us. This teaching is expressed so well by St. Teresa of Avila:

Christ has no body but yours; no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which his compassion looks out upon the world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

Well, I have probably written too much. There will be more to share with you later. For now, pray for us as we complete the budget. Pray for Bishop Evelio as he moves on to West Virginia. Pray for all of us as we continue to build up the Body of Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Ronald Jameson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson,
Rector