



September 2010

My dear parishioners,

My vacation has come and gone! My annual trip to North Carolina seems so far in the past. Msgr. Amey, Fr. Gardiner and I had a great time—warm, sunny days, an umbrella and a book on the beach; the sound of ocean waves rolling; great meals, great friends, and only a rare phone call! I really enjoyed the relaxation, the quiet and the peace. Wouldn't it be great to take a few more days at Emerald Isle in September?! Well, I guess I'll have to wait until next year.

Stewardship & Faith Direct—Participate in the Abundance of God!

My friends, all that we have comes from God; the only thing we can take with us from this life is what we have given: "a full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage." (St. Francis of Assisi) Just as grace is a participation in the life of God, so stewardship is a participation in the abundance of God. The Holy Spirit calls each of us to a life of discipleship, to finding ways to give back to the hungry, the needy, the homebound, and the unborn. Here at St. Matthew's, we have a multitude of ministries doing just that.

I want to thank all those who have signed up for *Faith Direct*, our electronic giving program. As you know, there are a number of advantages to this program. For us, it keeps income steady even when people are away. Your contribution comes whether you are at the beach, in the mountains, overseas traveling or out of the city on business. For you, it minimizes the effort needed to contribute regularly. Please consider enrolling! I am encouraged by the number of sign-ups so far. By this time next year, I would like to see 500 participants in the program. Together, we can do it.

With the increases in insurance premiums and archdiocesan assessments, the budget for the coming fiscal year recently approved by the Finance Council is very tight. The staff has pared down the costs of our programming to the greatest extent possible while preserving essential service to the community. I ask EVERY parish member to please consider seriously whether your contribution reflects your ability to support the work of the parish. Please consider that our costs rise each year, just as yours do, and that ongoing support is vitally important so that we, as Church, can continue to minister to one another and to the community at large. It is the embracing of our roles as servants and disciples of the Lord that truly continues the work of Jesus in our world today.

Health and Wellness Fair ~ September 12



This year's **Health and Wellness Fair** sponsored by the Social Justice & Community Services Committee will be held on Sunday, September 12 from 8:30am until 3:30pm in the North and East Conference rooms of the Cathedral. The services, information and education to be offered have been greatly expanded from last year. In addition to a sign-up for flu and pneumonia vaccines, this year's Health Fair will offer bone density, blood pressure, cholesterol, body mass index, vision/glaucoma, blood glucose, posture, balance, strength, HIV and other screenings by Holy Cross and Providence Hospitals, the Spanish Catholic Center, La Clinica del Pueblo, Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, and George Washington University. Also in attendance will be Iona (senior services), Kaiser Permanente (women's health), American Diabetes Association and the Archdiocese of Washington (advanced directives and other end of life issues). These providers also will provide education and information on general health, nutrition, cancer, access to health services, and much, much more. Flu and pneumonia vaccines will be administered on Hospitality Sunday, October 17, after sign-up at the Fair. Please come and join us to take advantage of this opportunity to care for your and your family's health and well-being.

Social Justice & Community Services Leadership

On that note, I want to thank in a special way Fr. Evelio and so many of you who have stepped up to lead and maintain our many Social Justice programs. Many were concerned that we were unable to afford to hire a replacement for Teresa Volante when she left the parish to work for Catholic Charities. I am so grateful that we now have such a great leader in Fr. Evelio, and many new volunteers under the direction of Gregg Glotnis, Chair of the Social Justice & Community Services Committee of the Parish Pastoral Council. Many of you also have contributed funds and particular items (e.g., food for the homeless, school supplies, etc.) for our programs. To all of you, thank you so very much

Other Fall Events at the Cathedral

I hope you will plan to take advantage of many of the Fall events and programs listed below.

Fr. Jack Hurley will offer a five-week series on “**The Pentateuch,**” the first five books of the Old Testament, on Saturday mornings this fall – September 11, 18, 25, and October 9, 16 – from 10:30 to 11:45am in the East Conference Room. Bring a Bible, and consider staying for the 12:10pm Mass. All are welcome!

Please keep the families and teachers of our **Children’s Religious Education program** in your prayers as they begin a new year on Sunday, September 12.

This year’s **Fall Lecture Series** will focus on life issues. Our five-part series will include talks on beginning-of-life issues, end-of-life issues, capital punishment, war and torture, and poverty. The series will begin Wednesday, September 29 and Thursday, September 30 and continue every Wednesday and Thursday in October. Wednesday lectures will be from 12:45 to 1:45pm in the North Conference Room. Thursday lectures will be from 7 to 8pm in the North Conference Room.

Once again, St. Matthew’s will host the annual John Carroll Society fall lecture. Most Rev. Joseph Augustine Di Noia, OP, Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, will speak on “**Why Do Catholics Go to Mass?**” at 6:45pm on Tuesday, September 28 in the Cathedral.

Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, Pastor of Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, MD, will give the first in a series of monthly talks at St. Matthew’s on Wednesday, October 6. Msgr. Vaghi will speak on “**Authentic Lay Spirituality**” at 6pm (following the 5:30pm Mass) in the East Conference Room.

On Sunday, October 3, Archbishop Wuerl celebrates the annual **Red Mass** at 10:00 a.m. The 8:30 a.m. Mass is cancelled that day. At the Red Mass, we welcome members of the U. S. Supreme Court and many judges, lawyers and other members of the John Carroll Society. The side chapels will be available to nonmembers on a first-come, first-served basis, with doors opening at 9:00 a.m. Please plan accordingly.

As the celebration of the Eucharist is central to our parish life, the Liturgy Staff and the Liturgy Committee of the Parish Pastoral Council will host a **Day of Formation for Liturgical Ministers** for the experienced, the new and those interested in serving, on Saturday, October 30. This will be a chance to gather for renewal in our desire and understanding of each minister’s fully conscious and active participation in the liturgy. If you are in a ministry or are considering serving as a lector, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, server or usher/greeter, please note this date and check September bulletins for more information.

Nearly thirty people have inquired this summer about becoming Catholic. We are always looking for sponsors to journey with these women and men through the **RCIA process**. Sponsors often report how much they learned and grew in their own faith by accompanying a person who is preparing to enter the Catholic Church.

I look forward to our working together, praying together and building together an even better parish community. God bless.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector



Looking for a convenient way to support our parish offertory?

Faith Direct is the innovative solution that allows you to support our parish using electronic funds transfer from either a credit card or bank account. It is a hassle-free, simple solution for today's busy families.

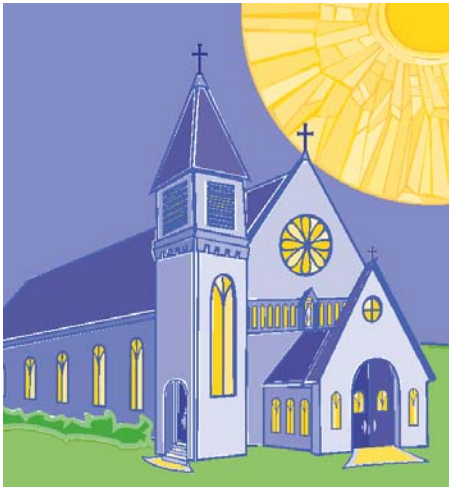
Sign up using the enrollment form on the other side or go online to www.faithdirect.net and use our parish code **DC284** to enroll today!

ENROLL TODAY!

How does Faith Direct work?

Faith Direct is a secure system that works directly with your bank or credit card—much the same as other direct payments you may have set up for utility bills or mortgage payments.

When do transactions take place?



Transactions take place once per month on the 4th or the next business day. The total amount of your gifts for that current month (both offertory & second/special collections) will be debited in one monthly total. The Cathedral will receive the funds 4 business days later.

Can I stop, increase, or decrease my payment at any time?

Yes, by calling *Faith Direct* at 1-866-507-8757 (toll free) by emailing info@faithdirect.net, or by logging in to your account through www.faithdirect.net.

How does the Cathedral benefit from my participation with Faith Direct?

The Cathedral will see a substantial increase in net revenue, a decrease in administrative costs, and a clearer picture of cash flow for their needs.

If you have any questions about the *Faith Direct* program, please call 1-866-507-8757 {toll free} or send an email to info@faithdirect.net, or contact Pam Erwin at the Rectory at 202-347-3215 x537 or perwin@stmatthewscathedral.org.

E-GIVING ENROLLMENT FORM



Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle
1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

FOR ONLINE ENROLLMENT
USE CHURCH CODE:

MI

DC284

Faith Direct • Attention: Enrollment • P.O. Box 7101 • Merrifield, VA 22116-7101 • 1-866-507-8757 {toll free} • www.faithdirect.net

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” (Peter 4:10)

Weekly Offertory contribution: \$ _____

(Note: Total contribution amount will be debited on the 4th of the month or the next business day. The total amount will be determined by the number of Sundays in the month. Some months have 5 Sundays.)

You may also choose to give to the following second and special collections.

The amount indicated will be debited in the month listed as part of the regular monthly transaction.

COLLECTIONS	AMOUNT	MONTH	COLLECTIONS	AMOUNT	MONTH
<input type="checkbox"/> Cathedral Maintenance	\$ _____	Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Father	\$ _____	June
<input type="checkbox"/> Music Ministry	\$ _____	Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Latin America	\$ _____	July
<input type="checkbox"/> Poor Box/Outreach	\$ _____	Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Communications	\$ _____	August
<input type="checkbox"/> Solemnity of Mary	\$ _____	January	<input type="checkbox"/> Assumption	\$ _____	August
<input type="checkbox"/> Black & Indian Missions	\$ _____	January	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic University	\$ _____	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Church in Central & Eastern Europe	\$ _____	February	<input type="checkbox"/> Church in Africa	\$ _____	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Ash Wednesday	\$ _____	February	<input type="checkbox"/> Propagation of the Faith	\$ _____	October
<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Thursday	\$ _____	March/April	<input type="checkbox"/> All Saints Day	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Land	\$ _____	March/April	<input type="checkbox"/> All Souls Day*	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Easter Flowers	\$ _____	March/April	<input type="checkbox"/> Camp. for Human Development	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Easter Sunday			<input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ _____	December
(In addition to regular Sunday gift)	\$ _____	March/April	<input type="checkbox"/> Immaculate Conception	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Home Missions	\$ _____	April	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Flowers	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Relief Services	\$ _____	May	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas	\$ _____	December

**Please call the church at 202-347-3215 with the names of your intentions for this collection.*

I would like to enroll in the Faith Direct program for the benefit of the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle. I understand that my total monthly contribution amount will be transferred directly from my checking account or credit card as stated above, a record of my gifts will appear on my bank or credit card statement, and my transfers will begin on the 4th or next business day of the month following my enrollment. I understand that I can increase, decrease, or suspend my giving by contacting Faith Direct toll free at 1-866-507-8757. *{All gifts provided to your Church originating as Automated Clearing House transactions comply with US law.}*

Signature: X _____ Date: _____

Name(s): (please print) _____

Street Address: _____

Church Envelope #: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Name as I/we would like it to appear on Offertory Cards: _____

I do not wish to receive Offertory Cards to place in the collection basket as a sign of my electronic giving.

If you choose to enroll by mail, you can contact Faith Direct at 1-866-507-8757 {toll-free} to set up online access to your account.

For Checking Account Debit: Please return this completed form and a voided check to Faith Direct Enrollment.

For Credit Card Debit: Please complete the following... VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Print Name as Appears on Card: _____

Signature: _____

If you have any questions about the Faith Direct program, please contact us at 1-866-507-8757 {toll free} or info@faithdirect.net.