



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

September 2013

My dear parishioners,

What a wild and wonderful July! First, the bittersweet experience of sending off Fr. Mark as pastor of St. Bartholomew's Parish in Bethesda, and Fr. Evelio as Administrator of Queen of the Americas just up Connecticut Avenue. We then welcomed two new priests: Fr. Mel took over for Fr. Mark, and Fr. Rafael, newly ordained for the Archdiocese of Washington, arrived to step into Fr. Evelio's responsibilities. I spent a few days helping them to acclimate to Cathedral life before leaving for vacation. Msgr. Amey, Fr. Gardiner and I had a great time in Emerald Isle, NC—our 15th summer vacationing there! The companionship, relaxation, quiet and peace were fantastic! I do hope that you also made time for relaxation, recreation and renewal with family and friends.

	2012-13	2011-12
Baptisms	147	155
Marriages	99	68
Funerals	9	9
First Communions	33	45
Confirmations	149	154

Sacramental Life at St. Matthew's

August is the month for parishes to share statistics with the Archdiocese regarding their finances and sacramental life. I thought you might be interested in seeing some of these figures (left). The number of marriages this past year is of particular interest—99 weddings took place here, but that figure does not include the many

couples who our clergy prepared for marriage but were wed elsewhere. Fr. Rafael and I spend hours each week with our couples, and we love it! Time consuming, yes, but so rewarding! It is very special to receive a request for a baptism, or a surprise visit (often with children in tow) from a couple with whom I have worked at some point during my 18 years here. Yes, we are a sacramentally and spiritually vibrant parish! On that note, please keep the families and catechists of our children's religious education program as they begin a new year Sunday, September 8 as well as our fifteen RCIA Inquirers who began the process earlier this summer.

Our Parish's Financial Picture

This is also the time of year to send the Archdiocese a complete financial picture of the parish. Last month our Finance Council approved the statement; the picture was not all sunshine. This past year our income was \$2,348,007 and our expenses were \$2,507,304. We paid down a portion of the deficit using money from our checking account and our building fund, leaving us with a deficit of \$56,674 owed to the Archdiocese.

Our offertory collection of \$969,680 was slightly higher than last year, though amounts from Christmas, Easter and our Cathedral Friends appeal were much lower. This year also was the first I can remember in which we did not receive a single bequest. The staff does a good job of keeping expenses down, but expenses over which we have little control play havoc with the budget. We paid out more in stipends for Mass celebrants (\$20,125) after losing our second Parochial Vicar. Utilities all went up—fuel oil (\$5,373); gas (\$26,239); electricity (\$104,445)—and don't forget the heavy bills for property insurance (\$68,066), the Offertory Assessment for the Archdiocese (\$125,086); interparish school support (\$52,119); and Archdiocesan education fund (\$31,272). In looking at our total picture, it is clear that **we must increase our income!**

"Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received, but only what you have given." — St. Francis of Assisi

Participate in the Abundance of God!

Just as grace is a participation in the life of God, so stewardship is a participation in the abundance of God. I am so very grateful to all parishioners who give to the Cathedral! Only one-third, however, give a recognizable gift. If the other two-thirds of our parish were to give something—let's say \$5 per week—we could erase the deficit and even undertake extra projects, put something away for a rainy day, or expand some of our social justice programs. So much more good could be done! Remember Faith Direct, our electronic giving program. A total of 373 parishioners now use it, minimizing the effort needed to contribute regularly and ensuring their contributions reach us regardless of where they might be on a particular Sunday. Please consider enrolling.

Our Parish Mission – “Praying with the Body of Christ”



Jesuit Father Gerard Stockhausen, friend of the Cathedral and executive secretary/socius for the Jesuit Conference, will be the featured preacher for our parish mission – “Praying With the Body of Christ” – to be held September 21 through 24. Over the course of three days, we will reflect on our journey to grow in communion with God and with one another as the Body of Christ. Fr. Stockhausen will preach at the 5:30pm Mass on the 21st as well as the 7am, 8:30am, 10am, 11:30am, and 5:30pm Masses on the 22nd. He also will give reflections at 7:30pm Sunday, the 22nd, and at 7pm Monday, the 23rd, and Tuesday, the 24th, in the Cathedral. Please join us!

Celebrate the Feast of our Patron, St. Matthew

Stop by the North Conference Room for hospitality and refreshments in celebration of our parish patronal feast day after all Masses on September 22 and the 5:30pm Mass on September 21. We also will hold our Ministry Fair, an annual opportunity to celebrate and educate one another on the many ministries and good works undertaken by parishioners. Meet old friends and new acquaintances, and learn how we follow in the footsteps of St. Matthew, "the Gift of God," by sharing our own gifts of time and talent with our parish and community.

Fall Lectures As We Conclude the Year of Faith - Come and Hear the Cardinal!

Our Fall Lecture Series will focus on the “Foundations of Our Faith” with talks on the Nicene Creed. Speakers include Conventual Franciscan Father Berard Marthaler, author of *The Creed: The Apostolic Faith in Contemporary Theology*; Sara Blauvelt, archdiocesan director of the Office for Catechesis; Pallottine Father Frank Donio, director of the Catholic Apostolic Center; Oblate Father Kevin Nadolski, director of development and communications for the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales; and our own Cardinal Donald Wuerl! The series will begin Wednesday, October 2 and Thursday, October 3, continue every Wednesday and Thursday in October, and conclude Thursday, October 31. Wednesday lectures will be from 12:45 to 1:45pm, and Thursday lectures from 7 to 8pm, in the North Conference Room.

English and Spanish Language Programs

Classes for the fall semester of the English as a Second Language and Spanish as a Second Language programs will be held from September 17 to December 12, with pre-registration on September 12. Registration will be open through the first week of October or until classes are filled. We need volunteers to serve as teachers, tutors, and hospitality ministers once a week. The ESL Program will be replacing its textbook series with new editions. Donations for new teachers' edition books are greatly appreciated and can be delivered or mailed to the rectory office. Please contact Krista Cox at stmattsesl@gmail.com with any questions on registration and volunteering.

An Opportunity to Join the Parish Pastoral Council

In early November we will hold elections for our Parish Pastoral Council, which advises and assists me in developing, organizing and supporting programs and ministries to enhance our parish's spiritual and temporal life. Whether you are a longstanding parishioner or new to the parish, serving on the Council is a great way to participate in and help to shape our community life. More information on the election will appear in the parish's weekly bulletins, parish website and Facebook page. I hope you will thoughtfully consider this call to service.

End Notes

Music is such an integral part of our life as a Cathedral, and we are proud of all those who contribute to its presence at St. Matthew's. As a part of our upcoming 175th Anniversary Celebration, we intend to place the crowning touch on the Cathedral's restoration by completing the Cathedral Great Organ. Soon you will receive an invitation to participate in this worthy effort. I hope you will welcome the opportunity to make a significant gift.

Wow! So much is happening! I look forward to our working, praying and building together an even better parish community. God bless.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector



CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

1725 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
NORTH & EAST CONFERENCE ROOMS

HEALTH SCREENINGS

- BLOOD PRESSURE
- CHOLESTEROL & GLUCOSE*
- BONE DENSITY
- BODY COMPOSITION
- DENTAL SERVICES
- BALANCE & STRENGTH
- FLU SHOTS*

HEALTH EDUCATION

- NUTRITION
- DIABETES
- CANCER PREVENTION
- WOMEN’S HEALTH
- HEALTH CONSULTATIONS
- MENTAL HEALTH
- INFORMATION PROVIDED IN ENGLISH & SPANISH

VISION CARE

- VISION SCREENINGS
- COMPREHENSIVE EYE EXAMS W/REFRACTIONS
- LOW VISION EXAMS AND DEVICE DEMONSTRATIONS
- DIABETIC RETINOPATHY AND GLAUCOMA

*All services are **FREE** with the exception of the following:

- Cholesterol screening (\$15)
- Flu Shots (\$25)

