



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

March 2015



My dear parishioners,

Lent is passing quickly; Holy Week is just a couple of weeks away. Each year 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.

Live off Your Passion

As you pray and reflect this Lent, consider the wisdom in this reflection:

A US Airways jet struck a flock of geese during its initial climb, losing engine power and ditching into the Hudson River off midtown Manhattan. Thanks to Captain Sullenberger, all 155 passengers survived. A reporter asked one passenger about his experience. Standing there soaking wet and freezing cold, the passenger glowed. With excitement in his voice, he said, "I was alive before, but now I'm really alive."

LIFE—it's an acronym for Live It Fully Everyday. Jesus calls us to do more than just go through the motions. He wants us to snap up life with passion. Grab hold of it and don't let go!

To recapture passion, start to live your life and own your choices. Do something you enjoy. Nurture your talents. Choose to see the good in people and love them. When life hits hard—stop, adapt, and move on. Sprinkle your life with adventures. If you fail at something, leave it behind and adjust. Don't put off passionate living. Do it today! Happy Easter!

—Lent 2015, *Let Jesus Lead the Way*, by Joseph Sica, 23rd Publications.

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, and stir our hearts with passion for the Kingdom of God.

Holy Week at the Cathedral

As always, the Cathedral will mark Holy Week with many special liturgies and musical events, described below and in the Lenten brochure that I sent you last month.

First, note that several priests will be available for Confessions in the Cathedral from 11:00 a.m. until Noon on Monday of Holy Week, March 30, through Holy Saturday, April 4. The exception to that schedule is ***Tuesday of Holy Week***, March 31, which is the date of our Lenten Communal Penance Service at 12:10 p.m., *Come Home for Easter*. On that date I will preside and preach, after which **more than fifteen priests from St. Matthew's and around the Archdiocese will be available for Confessions in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German, French, Kiswahili and American Sign.** This is a wonderful opportunity to reconcile with the Lord and his Church in time for Easter.

Of special note during Holy Week is the annual Chrism Mass. At this Mass, the priests of the Archdiocese renew their ordination promises and the Cardinal blesses the three sacred oils that will be used to anoint the sick and dying, as well as those being baptized, confirmed, or ordained. The Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. on ***Monday of Holy Week***, March 30. I encourage you to attend and pray for your priests. Our Tenebrae service will be held ***Wednesday of Holy Week***, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. On ***Holy***

Thursday we will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 12:10 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. **Cardinal Wuerl** will preside at the evening service, to include the washing of the feet. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held that night until 10:00 p.m. On **Good Friday**, Rev. Timothy P. Kesicki, SJ, President of the U. S. Jesuit Conference, will deliver a Reflection on the Lord's Passion at Noon, followed by the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 1:00 p.m. with **Cardinal Wuerl**. Fr. Rafael Barbieri will preside at the Spanish Liturgy of the Passion at 4:00 p.m. We will end the night with Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.

I hope many of you will be able to attend the Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m. on **Holy Saturday**, April 4, the greatest feast of the Church's liturgical year, the night on which we will welcome 21 brothers and sisters into the Catholic community.

Please refer to the brochure I sent you before Lent which contains the complete schedule for Lent and Holy Week. If you have misplaced your copy, you can pick up another in the Cathedral or view it using a link on our website front page. I look forward to seeing you as often as you can come.

Our Parish 175th Anniversary Celebration Continues



His Eminence Seán Cardinal O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston and a major advisor to Pope Francis (and former weekend assistant here at St. Matthew's), will present the premiere Keynote Address for St. Matthew's 175th Anniversary on Sunday, **April 26** at 3:00 p.m. in the Cathedral. The event is free and open to the public. All are welcome to attend and to join us for a reception following Cardinal O'Malley's address.

Special Easter Offering and Easter Flowers

Special Easter Offering envelopes and Easter Flowers envelopes are in the pews. You may also simply place your offering in a regular envelope and send it to the Cathedral Rectory. In a special way, we need your Easter Offering. **Our Christmas collections were down so we are looking for the Easter collections to exceed budget. I will really appreciate your Easter gift this year.** I thank you for your ongoing generosity to the Cathedral which makes possible all that we do here.

Thank You! Muchas Gracias!

I also thank those who contributed so generously to the Cardinal's Appeal last year, and those who have made their gift for this year. **If you have not done so, please do consider a gift to the 2015 Cardinal's Appeal.** This Appeal 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Ronald Jameson".

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH 175TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Sunday, April 26, 3:00 pm**
Address by Cardinal Seán O'Malley
- **Sunday, October 11, after all Masses**
Celebration of our many cultures, with traditional food, dress, music and dance
- **Saturday, October 17, 6:00 pm**
175th Anniversary Gala, with cocktails, dinner and dancing
- **Sunday, November 1, 12:00 noon (combining 11:30 am and 1:00 pm Masses)**
Bilingual Mass celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the founding of St. Matthew's Parish, with Cardinal Wuerl as Principal Celebrant, followed by a reception
- **Sunday, November 22, 7:30 pm**
175th Anniversary Concert, featuring the Schola Cantorum and Festival Singers
- **Sunday, December 13, 7:30 pm**
Lessons and Carols, a celebration of the Birth of Christ in Word and Song, featuring the Schola Cantorum

(Times subject to change. Please watch for future announcements.)