



*strengthening our faith*

*by rebuilding our heritage*

April 2014

My dear parishioners,

"I am afraid, and I am confused." These words we sometimes use to express the depth of our fear and confusion about life. Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans reflected on these feelings in an Easter article in *Give Us This Day* (April 2014).

*Like the disciples, there are times in our lives when there is fear and confusion. There is fear in the world as we see continued wars. Closer to home, in many of our communities there is violence, murder, and racism. Sometimes words of violence exist in our families. We are afraid as we embrace our own illness, the illness of another, or a recent death. There is fear when we experience disappointment in someone we love, when we are afraid of the future, or when we feel like we have failed. We experience weariness when we confront our own weakness, a sin that we keep falling into. When we feel those emotions, we need to turn to prayer and run to the tomb of Jesus. Go into the tomb, and there the Risen Christ says to you: "I am with you. Do not be afraid. In your darkness, I bring light. In your confusion, I bring hope. In your weakness, I bring mercy."*



With Archbishop Aymond, we, too, eagerly await the day of universal hope, the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection. Like Jesus in the desert, we prepare ourselves, test ourselves, purify ourselves during this holy season of Lent so that we may celebrate the renewal of our baptismal call during the Great Easter Vigil. Our liturgies for the remaining days of Lent give us ample opportunity for self-examination. During the First Scrutiny of the Elect on the Third Sunday of Lent, we prayed that these men and women will "sincerely reject everything in their lives that is displeasing and contrary to Christ." That prayer is not just for those who are about to join the Body of Christ through Baptism—it is meant for all of us. During that liturgy, we prayed with the Universal Church "that throughout the whole world, whatever is weak may be strengthened, whatever is broken restored, whatever is lost found, and what is found redeemed."

### ***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, **April 14** through Holy Saturday, **April 19**. The exception is Tuesday of Holy Week, **April 15**, the date of our Lenten Communal Penance Service, *Come Home for Easter*, at 12:10 p.m. I will preside and Fr. Rafael will preach, after which more than fifteen priests from around the Archdiocese will be available for Confessions in English, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Polish and American Sign. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconcile with the Lord and his Church in time for Easter.

Of special note is the annual Chrism Mass, when 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, **April 14**. I encourage you to attend and pray for your priests. Our annual Tenebræ service will be on Wednesday of Holy Week, **April 16**, at 7:30 p.m. On Holy Thursday, **April 17**, we will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper twice, at 12:10 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m. Cardinal Wuerl will preside at the evening liturgy, to include the washing of the feet. As usual, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held that night until 10:00 p.m. On Good Friday, **April 18**, Rev. J. Cletus Kiley, Director of Immigration Policy, UNITE HERE, will deliver some Reflections on the Lord's Passion at Noon, followed by the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 1:00 p.m. with Cardinal Wuerl. Bishop González will preside at the Spanish Liturgy of the Passion at 4:00 p.m., followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.

Of course, I hope many of you will be able to attend the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, **April 19**, the greatest feast of the Church's liturgical year, the great night on which we will welcome 27 new brothers and sisters into the Catholic community. Note that the Easter Vigil will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Again, please refer to the Lenten brochure for the complete schedule for Lent and Holy Week. View the brochure on our website front page ([www.stmatthewscathedral.org](http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org)) or pick up additional copies in the Cathedral. I look forward to seeing you as often as you can make the time to come.

### ***Upcoming Faith Formation Opportunities***

There is still time to register for St. Matthew's preparation program for active adult Catholics who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Sessions will be held Thursdays, **May 1, 8, 15, and 22** from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. with a retreat on Saturday, **May 17** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Ascension Sunday, **June 1**. The registration packet is available on the parish website to download and print or in the Cathedral rectory to pick up. The priority registration deadline is Friday, **April 4**. (This preparation is only for those baptized Catholics who have already celebrated their First Eucharist. For others, please contact Heather Kinney at [hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org) to discuss the RCIA process.)

More than 40 women and men participated in Awakening Faith, a small group process, this winter. These groups gave the participants a chance to meet others from the parish in a relaxed small group setting to talk about matters of faith. The Faith Formation Committee is working hard to launch another small group program during the Easter season. Stay tuned for more information!

### ***Special Easter Offering and Easter Flowers***

Special Easter Offering envelopes and Easter Flowers envelopes are in the pews. Feel free also to simply place your offering in a regular envelope and send it to the Cathedral rectory. We want the Cathedral to reflect the joy and beauty of Easter with plants and other flowers. This year, the bill for our Easter plants and flowers will be \$5,500. The floral arrangement at the foot of the Easter candle alone will cost \$300. We are always grateful for your contributions.

In a special way, we need your Easter Offering. At the present time, our expenses are exceeding our income. I will really appreciate your Easter gift this year. 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 already have made their gift for this year. If you have not done so, I would ask you now to consider a gift to the 2014 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.

During this time of year, please keep in your prayers the 23 pilgrims who will be travelling to Prague, Salzburg and Vienna with me from **April 23 to May 4**. Be assured that we will remember all of you at Mass each day. Some of the sites include the Loreto Shrine and the Church of Our Lady Victorious (with the statue of the Infant) in Prague; the Shrine of Maria Plain in Salzburg; St. Stephen's Cathedral and the Basilica of Mariazell in Vienna.

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,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson  
Rector