



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

February 2021

My dear parishioners,

Lent is almost here! It begins on Ash Wednesday, **February 17**. As we were preparing for Lent last year, the dangers of COVID-19 were steadily coming into focus. It was a time of uncertainty, yet Lent offered us hope—a time to give thanks to God for his love, comfort and mercy amid the challenges the world brings us. This year Lent gives us a renewed sense of hope, knowing that as uncertainty continues, so does God’s sacrificial love for us.

We Need Lent

As Christians we believe that **Jesus shared his life with us**; he is our friend, brother, and companion. This is the hope that awakens us each day. This is the power that spurs us on with enthusiasm. This is our hope: to live in light, in the light of Jesus.

We need Lent this year more than ever. We are challenged as a nation. In our deeply divided country there is a great need for civility, dialogue, and peaceful expression of concerns. Respect for one another and a willingness to dialogue and learn from one another are essential. There is no other way if we are to be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While the future is unknown, this much is certain: the high priority that St. Matthew’s Cathedral Parish has long placed on **servicing the poor, the homeless, the marginalized** and advocating on their behalf will not change. Nor will our commitment to **reaching out to immigrants and refugees**, documented or undocumented, or to **fighting racism and sexism**, or to **forming our young people in the faith**.

We are challenged as Catholics. Mass attendance is limited, and many participate virtually. Yes, we hear and reflect on the Sunday Word, and listen to the music. However, we really miss the Eucharist. Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist is an essential part of the Mass. I hear from some how easy it is to let Sunday pass without thinking of the community celebration of the Mass. And for those who are able to attend—masks, sanitizing, safe distancing, no singing by the assembly or drinking from the cup. The experience is so different. These months have been rough. How do we continue as Church? How do we maintain our faith? We wait, pray, and hope. But we still question. **Where is Jesus in all of this?**

We need a renewed personal encounter with Jesus, who **IS here**, next to us, reaching out to us with open arms. Jesus is our only real hope. We look to the future, with Jesus. We work together towards a **renewed Church** right here in our midst. Let us join together this Lent in prayer and fellowship, reaching out to those hurting, sick, or in need, survivors, those who feel hopeless or abandoned. **Let us join together with Jesus.** Let us not waste this Lent, a season of grace and hope leading to new life and resurrection! Now is indeed the acceptable time to hear the call to move on from darkness to new life—the theme of our **February 20 Virtual Lenten Retreat**.

Hope Fulfilled: Thank You, Muchas Gracias!

Last Fall I wrote to you about our financial challenges. Because of the pandemic our financial contributions were down. We restructured positions, hours, and salaries. Needing hope? You bet!! As your rector I kept looking for it. Thank God for FaithDirect! And then Jesus brought us **Advent/Christmas hope fulfilled – you responded!!** Hundreds of Cathedral friends responded.

Parishioners who had never given became donors. Thank you for providing for so many families and individuals needing food, clothing, and shelter. Thank you for helping to maintain our parish staff who support and lead our liturgical, faith formation and social ministries, and programs for our vibrant Spanish community, and who keep the Cathedral and rectory office going.

Your response gives me great hope of keeping up with our budget needs. I know you will continue to respond, as **sustained giving is key to our survival as a parish**. I was candid regarding the shortfall and promise always to be upfront. I know you will hold me accountable for my stewardship. Jesus is our ultimate hope, but we are his hands and feet in our homes and workplaces, and in the public square. All are called **to commit to good stewardship**, giving generously from what we have, recognizing that in the end, all is gift, all is grace.

Are you among the two-thirds of parishioners who have not given a recognizable gift to the parish? If so, I ask – **will you please begin to give** something from what you have? We need ALL our members. Please, determine what you can give, and **enroll in Faith Direct**. Sign up at www.faithdirect.net (Church code DC284) or call Pam Erwin at 202-587-5150.

I am so grateful and sincerely appreciate and continue to count on your support.

Lenten Liturgies

There is no better way to heed the clarion call of Lent than to join the Church in the **celebration of the liturgies**. The prayers and readings—the **Liturgy of the Word**—and the **Liturgy of the Eucharist** give us the strength and guidance to journey through the desert to the empty tomb of promise, to rise with Christ on Easter Sunday after having been plunged into his death at our Baptism. If we journey with integrity, then we will arrive at the tomb and see the future, and, indeed, **share in his resurrection**. Of course, this year only 150 people can be physically present for any single liturgy. But we are looking for hundreds or thousands of you and so many others to join us on YouTube for our livestreamed liturgies. During Holy Week Cardinal Gregory will look forward to seeing you.

On **Ash Wednesday, February 17** we will experience a new way to wear the sign of penitence as a reminder of the need for our inner conversion, for the rending of our hearts, not our garments, and for our return to the Lord our God. (Joel 2:13) This year our ashes will be sprinkled on our heads, a way normally used in Europe and in the Vatican, at **Masses celebrated at 7am, 9:30am, 12:10pm (Cardinal Gregory), 5:30pm, and 7:30pm (Spanish)**.

Stations of the Cross in English will be videotaped and available on our YouTube channel beginning on Ash Wednesday, for your celebration throughout Lent. We may also celebrate Stations of the Cross in the Cathedral on Good Friday. We will continue to offer Confession by appointment, possibly with a few scheduled Confession times in the Cathedral. Stations of the Cross in Spanish will be celebrated after the 1pm Spanish Mass on Sundays of Lent, followed on several dates by Confessions.

Attached you will find information on our Lenten offerings (our Holy Week and Easter schedule will be available soon). We hope you will take part in many of the prayer, devotional, faith formation, social justice, and music events - a mix of in-person and online/livestreamed events. Be sure to check our website at www.stmatthewscathedral.org for all the latest news. Please keep the staff and me in your prayers and be assured of my prayers for a blessed Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector (rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org)

Cathedral 2021 Lenten Schedule *Schedule of Holy Week Liturgies & Music available soon*

Find St. Matthew's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/c/cathedralofstmatthewtheapostle.

Spanish Language Offerings

- **Daily Spanish Prayer Group** via conference call – Each day at 3pm and 8pm (no 8pm prayer on Ash Wednesday) - Join by phone at +1 347-378-0694, PIN 283 201 937#
- Saturday, February 20 from 1pm to 4pm | **Lenten Retreat led by Fr. Benson** (in-person, in the Cathedral)
- Sundays of Lent, February 21 & 28, March 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 2pm (following the 1pm Spanish Mass) | **Stations of the Cross** (in-person, in the Cathedral)
- Saturday, February 27 from 10am to 4pm | **Confirmation Retreat led by Fr. Benson** (in-person, North/East Conference Rooms)
- Sundays, February 28, March 14 & 21 at 2pm (during Stations of the Cross) | **Confessions** (in the Cathedral)
- Tuesday, March 16 at 7:30pm | **Lenten Talk by Fr. Benson** (in-person, in the Cathedral)



English Language Offerings

- **Stations of the Cross** on the Cathedral YouTube Channel (available throughout Lent beginning Ash Wednesday)
- Saturday, February 20 from 10am to Noon | **Lenten Retreat, “Walking in the Dark of Life, Living in the Light of Easter,”** led by the Redemptorist Evangelization Team (via Zoom) Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/LentenRetreat2021.
- Tuesdays, February 23, March 9 & 23 from 7 to 8pm | **Lenten Lectures on Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving** by Theresa Prymuszewski, and guest speakers Doug Lawrence and Msgr. John J. Enzler (via Zoom) Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/LentenLectures2021.
- Monday, February 25 at 7pm | **Cathedral Book Club Discussion of “To Heaven and Back”** (via Zoom) Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/HeavenandBack.
- Sunday, February 28 at 3:30pm or Monday, March 1 at 7pm | **Gospel of Mark Study** (final session via Zoom) Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/GospelofMark.
- Tuesday, March 2 at 7pm | **Lenten Prayer Service cosponsored with National Association of Pastoral Musicians** (livestreamed on the Cathedral YouTube channel) Details available soon.
- Mondays, March 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 7 to 8pm | **Lenten Bible Study on St. Joseph with Dominican Seminarians** (via Zoom) (email Br. Simon at simon.teller@opeast.org, or call him at 202-554-7863 ext. 112, for information on how to connect.) Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/StJoseph.
- **Spiritual Direction** – Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/Direction or contact Theresa Prymuszewski at tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org for a referral.

Lenten Music

- Sundays, February 21 & March 7 at 3:30pm | **Organ Recitals by David Lang & Lynn Trapp** (in-person and livestreamed on the Cathedral YouTube channel) Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/2021Recitals.

Lenten Almsgiving

- Fridays of Lent, February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19 & 26 | **Simple Lenten Meals with the opportunity to donate to guest charities Horton's Kids, Brothers of Charity, Kairos, Community Resources, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, and Martha's Table** (via Zoom). Details available soon. – Donate to any of these organizations via check (payable to Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle with organization name on memo line) or via [PayPal](#) or [FaithDirect](#).

Lenten Almsgiving, cont'd

- **Lenten Food Drive with Knights of Columbus** – Details available soon.
- Sunday, March 7 – Saturday, March 13 | **Adopt-a-Family Easter Gift Card Drive** – Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/AAFEaster2021. Donate to the Easter gift card drive via check (payable to Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle with AAF Easter on memo line) or via **PayPal** or **FaithDirect**, or call Norma Canedo or Fr. Benson to schedule a delivery of \$25 Safeway or Giant gift cards.
- **CRS (Catholic Relief Services) Rice Bowl** – Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/RiceBowl2021. Donate to CRS Rice Bowl via check (payable to Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle with CRS Rice Bowl on memo line) or via **PayPal** or **FaithDirect**.
- **St. Matthew's Social Justice Ministries** – Donate via check (payable to Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle with "Social Justice Ministries" or the name of a particular Social Justice Ministry on memo line) or visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/SMSocialJustice and scroll to the bottom for options to give online to individual ministries via **PayPal**.

Ongoing Parish Events during Lent

- **Mass Times**
 - **Sunday** | English at 7am, 10am and 5:30pm, and Spanish at 1pm (10am & 1pm Masses livestreamed on the Cathedral YouTube channel)
 - **Weekday** | 12:10pm, Monday – Friday
 - **Saturday** | 8am Saturday
- **Weekday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** | 11:30am to Noon, Monday - Friday
- **Young Adult Coffeehouse via Zoom or Google Meet** | Sundays at 7:30pm. Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/YACoffeehouse.
- **Sidewalk Ministry to the Homeless** | Mondays at 8am. Donate lunches or clothing, or serve on Monday mornings. Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/SidewalkMinistry.
- **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) via Microsoft Teams** - Wednesdays at 6pm. Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/RCIA2021.
- **RCIA Lectio Divina via Microsoft Teams following 10am Livestream Sunday Mass** | contact Theresa Prymuszewski, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, at 202-347-5143.
- **Rosary for Life by phone** | Saturdays, February 27 & March 27 at 12:30pm - Join by phone: +1 469-965-2556, using Conference ID: 690 592 656#.
- **First Saturday Devotions** | Saturdays, March 6 & April 3 – Join by phone at +1 469-965-2556, using Conference ID: 556 362 584#.
- **Always God's Children Online Meeting** | Sunday, March 14. Visit www.stmatthewscathedral.org/AGCMarch2021.

Staff Contacts

For more information, you are welcome to email our staff members or call the rectory office at 202-347-3215 between 10am and 3pm, Monday – Friday. After hours, please leave a voice mail message.

Hispanic Liturgy & Ministries

Fr. John Benson, Parochial Vicar at jbenson@stmatthewscathedral.org

Fatima Aybar, Coordinator for Spanish Faith Formation at faybar@stmatthewscathedral.org

Lenten Retreat, Lectures & Bible Study, RCIA, Spiritual Direction

Theresa Prymuszewski, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation at tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org

Music Events & Special Liturgies

Thomas Stehle, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy & Director of Music Ministries at tstehle@stmatthewscathedral.org

CRS Rice Bowl, Lenten Food Drive, Easter Gift Card Drive, Sidewalk Ministry

Norma Canedo, Coordinator for Social Justice at ncanedo@stmatthewscathedral.org

Fr. John Benson, Parochial Vicar at jbenson@stmatthewscathedral.org

FaithDirect, PayPal, Offertory giving

Pam Erwin, Business Manager at perwin@stmatthewscathedral.org