



I 75TH ANNIVERSARY

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE
Sharing the Joy of the Gospel in Our Nation's Capital for 175 Years

July 2015

My dear parishioners,

June. It can't be June already! Where does time go? First Communions, Confirmations, weddings, budgets, celebrations of our 175th Anniversary, plans for the Holy Father's visit to Washington, and the list goes on and on! Life at St. Matthew's! But then there is July – Emerald Isle, here I come!!

St. Matthew's Staff and Clergy Reunion

In early June I invited my present and former staffs to a reception in the Great Hall; more than 50 people came! It was outstanding to visit with those did so much to make us who we are today. Do you remember . . . Fr. Jim Meyers, Fr. Percy d'Silva, Jay Rader, Chris McCullough, Nancy House, Fr. Mark Knestout, Fr. Kevin Regan, Edwin Acajabon, Fr. Alejandro Diaz, Heather Kinney, Fr. Agustin

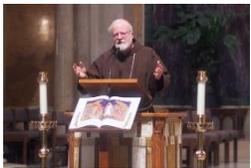


Mateo, Fr. James Watkins? The hugs were aplenty, stories rolled off our lips, and one thing united us—we all love St. Matthew's!! **You, too, have memories to share. Please send them to me to share with all who are invested in our parish!** Check our website front page for details.



Other Recent Highlights

The Washington Post in May published an article and a *Post TV* video on the Cathedral Music Ministries' ongoing project of completing the Cathedral Great Organ (<http://wapo.st/10YQNUJ>). We anticipate having the funds in hand shortly, and the process to get the Cardinal's permission to proceed has begun. If all goes well, the work to complete the organ will begin by year-end, after 20 years of prayers and effort! (Photo at right: Jabin Botsford/*The Washington Post*)



Were you able to attend Cardinal Seán O'Malley's talk in the Cathedral to celebrate our 175th Parish Anniversary? It was fantastic! *The Catholic Standard* did a good article on his visit (<http://www.cathstan.org/Content/News/Parish-News/Article/Boston-cardinal-comes-home-to-St-Matthew-s-Cathedral/2/20/6609>). On St. Matthew's You Tube channel, you will find a video of the Cardinal's talk. (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHAyQFb8XhIsAYMp2ePYviQ>.)

Looking to the Fall of Our Anniversary Year

Many outstanding events lie ahead. In September our Holy Father will visit Washington. What a great opportunity we have to see the Vicar of Christ here in this city. October features our Anniversary Gala on the 17th at the National Press Club, and a Multicultural Celebration on the 11th. On November 1 we will celebrate our anniversary with a special bilingual Mass at Noon with Cardinal Wuerl as celebrant and homilist, followed by a reception at the Madison Hotel. On November 22, prepare to be treated to a magnificent concert featuring by the Cathedral's *Schola Cantorum* and Festival Singers.

Body of Christ, Body of Faith

Since 1840, the vitality of our parish has depended on parishioners' generous contributions of time, talent, and treasure. We provide for the material and spiritual needs of approximately 60 homeless adults **every Monday**, regularly minister the Sacraments to our parish community, offer 29 masses **per week** and dozens of Faith Formation events **every month** for children and adults. This year we welcomed 20 new Catholics into full communion with the Church.

Ours is an active Body of Faith within the Church of Washington, working to give witness to the presence of Christ in the DC area. **This year, our parish's 175th Anniversary year, celebrates who we have been, who we are, and who we want to become.** Together, with the diversity of talents and gifts with which our Cathedral parish is blessed, let us carry into the future our work of bringing God's reign to reality among us.

A Challenge and an Invitation: Let the Holy Spirit Awaken Us to Our Gifts and Talents, and Build Unity Among Us

St. Matthew's Committees and Ministries provide countless opportunities by which you can contribute to the vision for our future. Carrying out our mission—building up the Kingdom of God **among us**—requires openness on the part of, and participation by, **all of us**. 'Makes sense,' you say, 'but what do I have to give?'

You enhance the welcoming atmosphere in our parish when you introduce yourself to a new parishioner, join the community and share in coffee and hospitality after Mass, and assist new immigrants with their ESL courses.

You deepen others' commitment to the faith when you serve as an RCIA sponsor, participate in our liturgical celebrations, and enjoy some wine and wisdom with the Cathedral Young Adults.

You serve as witnesses of Christ's work when you *donate* to Adopt-A-Family, *run* for vocations, *March* for Life, and *greet* one another as Ministers of Hospitality.

You enhance our infrastructure when you suggest ways for our internal systems to improve, and respond to parish surveys and other avenues of outreach.

Your financial contributions are particularly critical to our infrastructure, whether through bequests, *Faith Direct*, or in the Sunday offertory. They keep the lights on (literally!), ensure we have sufficient staff to keep programs running smoothly, and cover the costs of visiting priests to celebrate Mass and hear confessions.

These acts connect us to God and to one another. **Each one of you is needed. I ask you, as a parishioner of St. Matthew's Cathedral Parish, to pray regularly for the vitality and well-being of our parish. I also challenge you to learn more about our work, and to contribute your energy and ideas to St. Matthew's presence and work in the DC area,** particularly during this time of transition.

Building connections to our community is easier than it may seem. Please get involved by visiting the *Join Us* section of the Cathedral's website, www.stmatthewscathedral.org/join. If you have general ideas, please feel free to contact me at 202-347-3215 or at rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org.

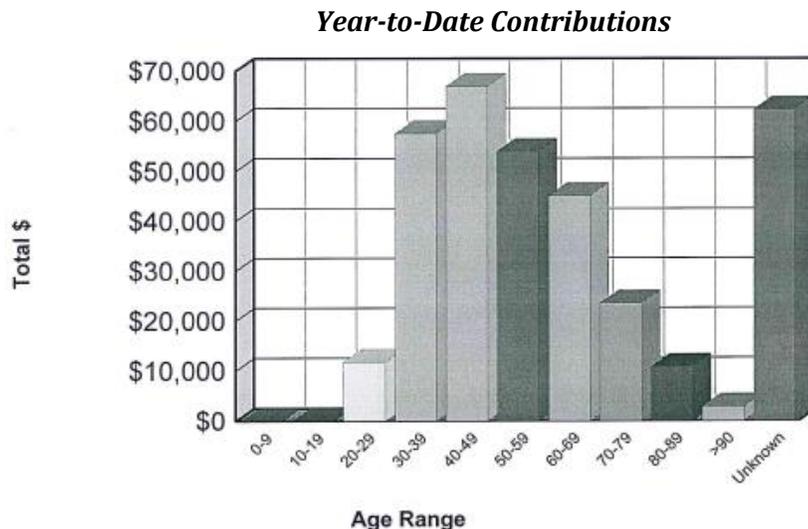
MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENTS.

- **Sunday, October 11, after all Masses**
Multicultural Celebration, 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.)

Parishioner Giving by Age Group

The chart below shows year-to-date contributions as of June 8 according to age based on weekly contributions. Very interesting!



Parish Expenses

The staff and I are in the process of projecting our needs for FY 2015-2016. The budget includes more repairs and maintenance of our physical plant. As you may have noticed, we need to replace some of the mortar between the bricks in the front steps of the Cathedral. The weather-beaten wood trim on the high windows of the Cathedral and the rectory needs painting. Much work is still needed on the N Street property, the base of operation for our English and Spanish Language programs, including repair of the water damage in the east wall, and much painting. Recent major water damage in the rectory also needs repair.

Electronic Giving

To date, the generosity of *Faith Direct* participants has kept us afloat; costs, however, continue to rise and we need the help of all. **Why not determine what you can afford to donate and sign up for *Faith Direct*? It is simple and it works.** Need more information? See the Cathedral's webpage on *Faith Direct* at <http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/support/egiving>, or call Pam Erwin at 202-587-5150. We want to continue providing the best in liturgy and music, to evangelize our community, to serve the poor, and to teach the gospel message. With your help, St. Matthew's can be a beacon of hope to the central business district. Thank you for your time and talent, and your spiritual and material treasures. All things are possible with God, working through great people like you.

Please know that I am so grateful to you. You are great parishioners. Together, with your generosity, we will make this new budget work. God bless you.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. May God bless you all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector