



March 2019

My dear parishioners,

Lent is passing quickly; Holy Week is just a couple of weeks away. 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. (Photo credit: Jaclyn Lippelmann/[Catholic Standard](#))



An Easter People

Valerie Schultz has this to say about Easter:

While Easter lasts one day in the secular world, we know that it is our mission to live as an Easter people. We know what it is to forgive and to be forgiven. Easter people know and are grateful for God's gifts of grace and salvation. We know that God is always close by with outstretched hands, to pick us up, dust us off, and give us another chance to do God's will. . .

Let us keep in mind that the glory of Easter's dawn leads us ever closer to the gifts of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit brings us hope and strength. In return, we are called to accept the responsibility we have to each other—to speak in a language that others understand, to listen with the heart, and to minister with kindness and joy.

The powerful wind and the holy breath of the first Pentecost filled the Apostles with faith and fortitude (Acts 2:1-4). The Holy Spirit breathes upon us in the same way all these centuries later, encouraging us to step out of safety and to go among the nations to build God's kingdom here and now. We may be led to places we never imagined ourselves going.

When we are mindful of God's presence, we will find that life is full of sacred surprises.

—Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter Week, by Valerie Schultz, Liguori Press

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.

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](#) sent to you last month and available in the Cathedral and on the parish website at www.stmatthewscathedral.org.

Several priests will hear Confessions in the Cathedral from 11:00 a.m. to Noon on Monday of Holy Week, **April 15**, through Holy Saturday, **April 20**. The exception is Tuesday of Holy Week, **April 16**, when Fr. López will preside and preach at our [Lenten Communal Penance Service](#) at 12:10 p.m. More than fifteen priests from around the Archdiocese will hear Confessions in multiple languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German 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](#), at which the priests of the Archdiocese renew their ordination promises and we witness the blessing of the sacred oils used to anoint the sick and dying, as

well as those being baptized, confirmed or ordained. The Mass will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday of Holy Week, **April 15**. I encourage you to attend and pray for your priests. Our Tenebrae service will be held on Wednesday of Holy Week, **April 17** at 7:30 p.m. On Holy Thursday, **April 18**, we will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper twice, at 12:10 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m. The evening service will 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 19**, Rev. Timothy O'Brien, SJ, Associate Pastor at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 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. Bishop Dorsonville 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.

Of course, I hope many of you will be able to attend the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, **April 20**, the greatest feast of the Church's liturgical year, the great night on which we will welcome 14 new brothers and sisters into the Catholic community—7 will be baptized, confirmed and celebrate their First Eucharist; 6 baptized will make their Profession of Faith, be confirmed and celebrate full communion with us; and 3 baptized Catholics will complete their Sacraments of Initiation. Note that the Easter Vigil will begin at 8:00 p.m.

I look forward to seeing you as often as you can make the time to come.

Faith Formation

On Tuesday evening, **April 2**, come out to hear **Robert J. Wicks, Psy.D.**, clinical psychologist, international speaker, and spiritual writer, on "[The Simple Care of a Hopeful Heart: Strengthening Your Inner Life in Challenging Times.](#)" Expect a practical, illustrative, lively, and rich presentation on resilience, compassion, prayer, spirituality, and personal/professional wellbeing. On Saturday, **April 6**, Fr. John Hurley concludes his Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke with a discussion of the Passion of Christ. Also continuing is our Wednesday evening reading and discussion of the upcoming Sunday Scriptures—the Sacred Page Group—led by our Cathedral seminarians.

We congratulate two St. Matthew's catechists who recently were certified by the Archdiocese – First Grade Catechist, Mary Ham, and Fourth Grade Catechist, Kathleen Lester.

Special Easter Offering and Easter Flowers

Special Easter Offering envelopes and Easter Flowers envelopes are in the pews. You also may place your offering in a regular envelope and send it to the Cathedral Rectory, or give via Faith Direct (www.faithdirect.net; parish code DC284). **We really need a healthy Easter collection to meet our budget.** Our Christmas collection was **WAY** down so we are looking for the Easter collection to exceed the budgeted amount. The color of our income statement to date is RED—below budget by a large amount.

You may be surprised to learn that only 1/3 of registered households contribute more than a penny for the entire year. If each household would give something to this Easter collection, we would meet our budget. There are many reasons for not giving. I understand that, but we want to continue to provide good music and faith formation programs, to serve the least of our brothers and sisters, and to maintain this beautiful Cathedral. I will sincerely appreciate your Easter gift. **PLEASE help us out.** We are really hurting. In my next letter, I will give you a detailed breakdown of our finances.

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!

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

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Enjoy a 360° virtual tour of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of our Nation's Capital at tour.stmatthewscathedral.org.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson, V.F.
Rector