



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

September 2018

My dear parishioners,

Here it is September; as I look back to my vacation in July, it seems so long ago. Shouldn't I be getting ready for another one? This year I went again to Emerald Isle in North Carolina—trip number 19 to that quiet, peaceful beach resort. It was very restful but there were plenty of clouds and much rain.

Clergy Sexual Abuse – How Do We Respond as the People of God, as a Parish?

On vacation I like to read the *Washington Post* on my Kindle. This year it was very disheartening. Each day I read more accounts of the allegations against **Archbishop McCarrick**. I was stunned, angry and devastated. I was saddened and disappointed that our former archbishop—a prominent Church leader and a friend to the Cathedral—was the subject of these allegations. I am hurting, and so are my brother priests—one said to me, “I am a priest because of Cardinal McCarrick.” On the heels of this scandal, we hear about the **Pennsylvania grand jury report** that identifies 300 priests over a 70-year period accused of sexual abuse against minors. It also addresses the treatment by our own archbishop of some of the 32 accused abusers in the Pittsburgh diocese, while he led that diocese.

You are hurting, as I am. You are angry. You feel disappointed, betrayed. You wonder what to expect from Church leaders. You ask how your voices can be heard, and how you can effect change. **Actions must be taken** by our bishops' conference and by Rome—now. I pray that will happen with the **collaboration of the clergy—bishops, priests and religious—and the lay faithful**.

Pope Francis in mid-August issued a first-of-its-kind letter on the clergy sexual abuse crisis, acknowledging that the Church had “showed no care for the little ones; we abandoned them.” Let **our action** begin with prayer for all the victims and survivors of clergy sexual abuse and all affected by it, for our Church, and for the bishops' conference and the Pope who ultimately must act. We also must pray for a change in the culture. No more coverups. No more slipping things under the rug. Let us pray for reform within the hierarchy and across dioceses so that true and lasting change can take place throughout the Church.

On the parish level we are working to join in prayer in the face of this crisis. In August, we began at our third Monday Eucharistic Holy Hour. In October, we will have a multifaceted approach—prayer, penance, action. A parishioner sent me a wonderful letter suggesting ways for us to respond. If you have suggestions, please share them with me. I will ask my staff and the Parish Pastoral Council to do likewise. Please continue to pray for all of us, especially all who are suffering so much in this crisis. *Oremus pro invicem. Let us pray, one for the other; let us pray for each other.*

Sacramental Life at St. Matthew's

August is the month for sharing statistics with the Archdiocese on sacramental life. Note at right the numbers of marriages—high as they are, they reflect only couples who are married at the Cathedral and not the many others whom we prepare for marriage and are wed elsewhere. Yes, we are a sacramentally and spiritually vibrant parish. On that note, please pray for the families and catechists of our Children's Faith Formation program as they begin a new year, and for our newest RCIA Inquirers.

	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14
Baptisms	125	125	109	127	137
Marriages	69	84	65	71	64
Funerals	12	12	12	7	17
First Communions	33	36	37	49	39
Confirmations	139	129	178	179	167

Our Financial Picture

It's also time to give the Archdiocese a complete financial picture of the parish. Last month our Finance Council approved the financial statement for 2017-2018 and the budget for 2018-2019. This past year's operating income was \$2,724,540 and operating expenses were \$2,511,346.

Consider the sample of expenses at right. We were truly blessed last year to receive some large donations, and my staff kept expenses to a minimum.

<i>Expenses</i>	<i>\$</i>
Sanctuary candles	30,829
Faith Formation programs (English and Spanish)	144,164
Social Justice programs	98,741
Music Ministry	350,000
Rectory security	23,054
Electricity	99,750
Property insurance	85,329
Offertory assessment	140,907
Interparish school support	58,712

Ideally, our Offertory collection should drive our budgeting process and operations. We should be able to count on our Offertory rather than praying that special gifts will cover additional expenses, even those that are less predictable, like the expected \$12,000 repair bill for a crack we recently found in the Wedding Chapel. Our Offertory has remained consistent, but the number of parishioners has continued to increase. We know that on many weekends you may be out of town; **that's one reason for using Faith Direct—to plan your sacrificial gift.** You need not worry that you were away or without your check book. Sign up for Faith Direct!

To meet our budget in this new fiscal year, **I need the help of all 2,366 parish households.** In the last fiscal year, only **869 parish households** gave an identifiable offertory gift. If all households not giving an identifiable gift were to give even a few dollars each week via **Faith Direct**, our online giving program (www.faithdirect.net; parish code DC284), we could avoid running a deficit for 2018-2019. Please consider giving the value of a cup of Starbucks coffee or one beer each week to help us meet our budget, which is not extravagant. Ask the Finance Council, who will affirm: it is bare-bones.

Personal Appreciation

This past year was very special for me as I celebrated my 50th anniversary of priesthood. It was fantastic; so many Cathedral parishioners and people from my former parishes. I thoroughly enjoyed it **and I am so grateful** to all who attended or sent me greetings and wonderful gifts. You are always so kind and generous. I am so fortunate to be the rector of this fantastic Cathedral parish.

Early Fall Highlights

Come and learn about the Book of Daniel at the next Saturday morning Bible Study with Fr. Jack Hurley, meeting at 10:30am on **September 8** and **15**. This fascinating Old Testament work combines stories, apocalyptic events, and basic teachings of the Prophets.

This year's **Fall Lecture Series** focuses on *Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and Be Glad)*, Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on the **Call to Holiness in Today's World**. Theresa Prymuszewski, our Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, kicks off this Tuesday 7pm evening series with a presentation on **October 23**. On **October 30** and **November 6**, Jesuit Fathers Timothy Kesicki, President of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the U.S., and Sean Michaelson, Socius of the Jesuit Conference, respectively, will present.

I look forward to our working, praying and **building together** an even better parish community. God bless.

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Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector