

The Ministry of Jesus Continues

Despite the sometimes hectic pace of the past three weeks in which we have celebrated the Christmas and New Year's holidays, many of us have been delighted with a work schedule that was out of the ordinary routine. By this I mean many of us took additional personal days or were given them off as part of our employer's generosity and/or appreciation for work rendered during the preceding months of the year. Now that the holidays are over, we are returning to the daily work schedule we had prior to the holidays. The next long stretch of days off will not occur for some time. For those who are in college, their spring break is six to eight weeks away; for elementary and high school students, their next break from the routine is either Holy Week or Easter Week off, and for most others who have a full time job, their next break will not be until summer. We have returned to the work that occupied our days and weeks prior to the delightful revised schedule that was ours briefly. We might have mused to ourselves: "Wouldn't it be nice if every week was as care free and work free as the week between Christmas and New Year's". As delightful a thought as it may be, we would all soon come to the realization that with no one working a regular week, all of us, I suspect, would soon be complaining that I can't get this or that completed because no one is ever in their office or no one ever answers the phone or no one ever keeps up on the necessary documentation or no one stocks the shelves, and on, and on, and on. Our life's work, be it meager or grand, does impact others profoundly and serves the needs of many people far beyond our wildest imaginations. Drawing upon the school and parish theme of the previous year we can confidently say: I do make a difference in the world be it great or small. One or two of us may not be missed if we were out sick for the day, but if everyone was out sick, then the power of the collective work force is felt in its absence.

As we come to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we are celebrating the formalized inauguration of Jesus' public three year ministry on earth in which He will preach and heal in His Father's name and announce the good news that the Kingdom of God is at hand. The work and ministry of Jesus is documented in the gospels for us, but if we were to limit His work to only those three public years on earth, we would be overlooking that which is essential to each one of our baptisms. Accepting baptism into Christ Jesus is also an acceptance of being a co-worker of His in the vineyard of the world. We are called by the grace of our own baptism to witness to Christ by the words we speak, the actions we perform and in totality by the lives we lead. It's nice to have a little time off from the normal routine but today's feast is a call for us to get back to the work at hand. The kingdom of God is not yet complete on earth... much work has to be done. Unfortunately, too many are out of the Lord's office with a varying degree of excuses. We are challenged to continue the work of our Redeemer in the world today. There are still hungry to be fed, naked ones to be clothed, wars to end, reconciliations between persons sought after, and lowly and oppressed peoples that need the grace of freedom. We are the Lord's and promised at our baptism to serve Him all the days of our lives so its time to get back to work in our own community of faith and make Jesus the Christ more present and more known in our little corner of the vineyard. It means rolling up our sleeves and at times getting dirty but the rewards and retirement plan cannot be beat. The next several weeks are already packed with all sorts of work for the Archdiocese and for the parish so join me in continuing the work of Jesus through the mission and ministry of our parish church and school!



Stewardship Report: Revenue



January 2nd:	8,559.48
Last Year:	11,555.38
New Year's:	2,900.78
Last Year:	1,215.35
Poor Box:	265.65
Every Penny Counts Box:	54.05

January 7th:	9,718.10
Last Year:	11,513.48
Poor Box:	302.15
Every Penny Counts Box:	40.09

Christmas: (to date) 28,663.32

Number of Adult Envelopes: 252; Number of Children's Envelopes: 11; Number of Faith Direct donors: 32; Number of Registered Households: 663

Black and Indian Missions: Our **second** collection **this** weekend is for the National Collection for the Black and Indian Missions to support the evangelization of our African American and Native American brothers and sisters and bringing Christ's Gospel of love and redemption to people across our nation.

2008 Archbishop's Appeal Begins: Many of our parishioners have received a letter from Archbishop Wuerl announcing the 2008 Appeal and asking for their generous financial support. The programs, services and ministries supported by this appeal require financial support from each of us in order to continue to meet the challenges of our diverse and growing communities. The theme this year is "The Lord is my light and my salvation," psalm 27:1. As you reflect on this theme, consider God's gift of salvation as well as all the other gifts that He constantly gives up. If you receive the mailing from Archbishop Wuerl, please take a moment to recognize how God has blessed you and, then, as a symbol of your gratitude for His gifts, make a generous pledge in support of the work.

Annual End of Year Contribution Statements: During the next few weeks our business office will begin to prepare contribution statements for the year 2007 (for regular envelope users/contributors/Faith Direct participants). The parish is not obligated under the law to send these statements but rather it is done as a courtesy to our parishioners in gratitude for their faithful sacrifices of treasure and to assist them as they prepare their 2007 tax return. Contribution statements will be mailed sometime toward the end of January or the beginning of February. Statements will only be mailed to parishioners who contributed more than \$250 to the parish over the past year. Others may request a statement, should you need one, from the business office. We strive for accuracy in our record keeping but occasionally through human or technical errors we make mistakes. If there are discrepancies in your statement please call Mrs. Leslie O'Leary in the business office (ext. 202). Your canceled checks will greatly assist us in correcting our records! Thank you to everyone who takes the time to use your offertory envelopes or Faith Direct and for your weekly sacrifice of treasure to our Lord. We will be making a special effort to seek out more parishioners willing to commit to the Faith Direct automatic debit program for banking or credit card account. This valuable service is safe, easy, and simple. It assures the parish of a regular committed income from each parishioner each week and allows us to plan more accurately budget for the parish's needs each year. Please join your Pastor, Father Jeff, as a Faith Direct participant and sign up when the form arrives in the mail with your offertory statement. Thank you for your gift of faithful stewardship!

Other Items of Note:

New website for Papal visit: The Archdiocese of Washington has set up a website for the papal visit: www.adw.org/papalvisit. The site will be updated regularly with information on ticket distribution, parish resources, the Holy Father's planned itinerary, frequently asked questions and more.

Recycle Your Ink & Toner: The school is collecting used ink and toner cartridges. Just place your used cartridges in the back of the church inside the new box. All cartridges are recycled and proceeds benefit the technology needs of the students and teachers as well as help to maintain and upgrade the computer lab. Many thanks for your continued support!

Vocation Retreat: On the weekend of February 1-3, 2008, Archbishop Wuerl, will sponsor a retreat for men in their twenties, thirties and forties who have considered a call to the priesthood. It will be time away from the daily grind with plenty of prayer and reflection to examine God's call in your life. No high pressure. Nor hard sell. If you feel Jesus may be calling you, why not give Him a weekend? It will cost you nothing more than your time. Please contact the Office of Priest Vocations to register. Office phone: 301-853-4580 or email Msgr. Rob Panke at : vocations@adw.org.

Married Couples renew your relationship in 2008! Want to make your good marriage a great marriage? Attend a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. It is a private weekend designed to enhance today's relationships. **February 23-25** in Lexington Park, MD. Please call for info or to register: **301-924-5683** or go to <http://dc.wvme.org>

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Classes Resume: We will have classes tomorrow, Monday, January 13th as usual. However, there will be no classes on Monday, January 21st due to the Martin Luther King Holiday.

First Penance: We celebrate First Penance on Saturday, January 26 at 10:00am prompt. Children are to be seated no later than 9:45 am.

Confirmation: All candidates are required to attend the 9:30 am Mass on January 26 for the Rite of Elect and to submit their covenants. Make sure to bring along all the documents needed for this Mass. You may call me at 301-459-4814 x 205 if you have any questions whatsoever. May you continue to grow in your wisdom of the Lord and your Catholic faith.

St. Matthias School Raffle 2008
Drawings Begin!

The 1st Raffle Drawing was Monday, January 7th.
Cheryl McNeal of Lanham, MD was the winner
AND the seller, she **won \$350.**
Congratulations!!



Mass Intentions for the
First Week in
Ordinary Time

Monday, January 14

8:30 am Leona Bentley

Tuesday, January 15

8:30 am Alexandra Cornell

Wednesday, January 16

8:30 am Jim Cusak

Thursday, January 17

8:30 am George J. Jillson

Friday, January 18

8:30 am Father Michael Kidd

Saturday, January 19 – Vigil: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions Fr. Bob

5:00 pm Leonarda Altares Fr. Bob

Sunday, January 20: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Father Michael Kidd Fr. Jeff

9:30 am Frances Schlegel Murray Fr. Bob

11:30am Father Michael Kidd Fr. Stan

Please Pray for: ♦The Sick and Homebound In Our Parish:

Fr. Augustine Kizito Abizi; Charito Beal; Ann Benson; Audrey Brown; Vicky Calizo; Arlene Case; Marco J. Clark; Ann & Ray Degraff; Fidel dela Cuesta; Eleanor DeMarco; Anne Diemer; Bob Drake; Andrea Guiang; Gabriel Guzman; Joseph Harrison; Robert Hoke; Charles Jones; Robyn Kirby; Nancy Maimone; Bill Moore; Larry Murphy; Michael Nardozi; Joseph Sico; Anna Stewart; Veronica Verna; Phil Vullo; ♦**For Our Military Serving in**

Afghanistan or Iraq: Brian A. Densmore ♦**For Our Deceased:**

Harmel Collins; Angelica DeLeon; Father Michael Kidd; Francis Schlegel Murray ♦ *Names will be placed on our prayer list for three weeks. To add a name or to request continuing prayers, call Tara Guevara at 301-459-4814 or email tguevara@stmatthias.org.*

Youth Ministry

Right to Life March: All High School students are invited to attend this year's Annual Right to Life March on Tuesday, January 22nd at Verizon Center. Students in Public Schools will be given an excused absence to participate in the march. Students are to gather at the Verizon center by 7:30 am. Metro will be the best form of transportation. Meet at New Carrollton Station no later than 7:00 am. Any student interested in participating in this event must bring a signed letter with his/her parent's permission stating such to Mrs. Moore, Director of Youth Ministry; 301-459-4814.

St. Matthias School News

If you are interested in enrolling your child in our school for the 2008-2009 school year, please plan to attend one of our **Open House Tours** on **January 23, January 30** or **February 5** from 9:00am until 11:30am. Please call the school for more information.