

§ From Your Pastor >



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Next weekend we begin the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2009. Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country play in providing a values-added education for America's young people. Catholic schools are proud of their educational network that emphasizes intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical, and social values in their

students. Catholic Schools Week is a key part of the yearlong National Marketing Campaign For Catholic Schools. Catholic Schools Week celebrates education that goes beyond preparation for a secular life — it is education that prepares students for a Christian life. CSW also celebrates the high standards of excellence and the quality of the education available to all students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the U.S.

We will have our *special second collection for the support of our Catholic school* and to assist us in keeping up with our annual operational costs. You will be receiving a special offering envelope in the mail and additional envelopes will be available in the pamphlet rack in the back of the church. I urge you all to please be as generous as possible in supporting our school. Don't let apathy and indifference consume us like it has others. Rejoice with me that we have such a precious gift and pray with me that together, through our sacrifices, our school will continue its 48 year history of maintaining the highest degree of academic and spiritual standards; a remarkable, loving and dedicated faculty and staff, and a student body full of enthusiasm because they know of God and His marvelous wonders, because we have opted to be a light among the darkness filling many of our county schools today. Please take note of our school open house dates following this reflection and come to see for yourselves what a gift we have in Saint Matthias the Apostle Catholic School. Support it! Love it! And send your children and grandchildren to it!

School Open House Tour Dates: Open house tours will be available on the following dates. If you cannot make it to one of our scheduled tours, or if you need further information, please call the school office at 301-577-9412. **Please note that testing for incoming students will be held on February 27th at 1:15pm.**

- January 21, January 28 and February 4 from 9am until 11:30am
- Sunday January 25th following the 9:30 am Mass

Fight FOCA Postcard Campaign: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment are cosponsoring the "Fight FOCA Postcard Campaign." This Pro-Life campaign sends the message to Congress that the radical policies of FOCA (Freedom of Choice Act) are out of step with the most basic values of the American people and should not become a part of our nation's laws in any way.

A post card signing event will be held this weekend before and after each Mass. This will give parishioners, as individuals and as a body, an opportunity to give public witness to their belief in the sanctity of human life. Parishioners may also choose to use the e-mail sign up form which will network pro-life constituents together and allow them to communicate to legislators quickly and effectively.



Stewardship Report:



Revenue

Christmas Collection to Date: 32,560.25

January 11:	7,238.19
Faith Direct:	1,351.25
Total Offertory:	8,589.44
Last Year:	8,763.48
Poor Box:	170.23
Every Penny Counts Box:	532.73
Building Fund:	1,050.00

Number of Adult Envelopes: 217; Number of Children's Envelopes: 18; Number of Faith Direct donors: 37; Number of Registered Households: 660

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Please take a moment to pick up your **ANNUAL ENVELOPE BOX SET** after any Mass in the back of the church. An alphabetic list of parishioners and their assigned numbers is available for your convenience if you do not know your number. **PLEASE NOTE:** We aware that there were problems in the transmittal of our data to the envelope company and that there are several envelope sets that were not printed. If you find that your name or number is missing, please contact Tara in the Rectory so she can order a set for you. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

Annual End of Year Contribution Statements: During the next few weeks our business office will begin to prepare contribution statements for the year 2008 (for regular envelope users/Faith Direct contributors). 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 2008 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 recordkeeping but occasionally through human or technical errors we may make mistakes. If there are discrepancies in your statement, please call Mrs. Leslie O'Leary in the business office. Your canceled checks will greatly assist us in correcting our records! Please be sure that we have your most current address on file in our database so that we can get your statement to you in a timely fashion. If you have changed addresses or are not sure what address we have on file, please contact Tara in the rectory at 301-459-4814 or email her at tguevara@stmatthias.org. 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.

Don't forget to pick up your Every Penny Counts Home Version tin can to fill with coins in support of our parish scholarship fund named in honor of our founding pastor! Get yours TODAY!



A benefit for the Father E. Albert Hughes
Scholarship Fund.
Please fill this can with coins and return to the
school, rectory or church after any Mass.



Faith Formation

No Class on January 19, 2009: This is a reminder that there will be no class tomorrow, Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Day. We will resume classes on January 26th.

First Penance: Please keep our children in your prayers as they prepare for the sacrament of First Penance on **Saturday, January 31st at 10:00am**. Parents make sure you and your children are seated no later than 9:45 am.

Confirmation: Mark your calendar for Sunday, January 25, 2009. Be sure to be present at the **9:30 a.m. Mass** during which time you will hand in your signed and completed forms to the presider of the Mass. A basket will be placed at the back of the church to collect your signed forms.

RCIA: Classes have resumed as usual. See you on Tuesday evenings in the Faculty Lounge.

Baptism: We welcome all new parishioners especially those who have infants and children to be baptized. Please take note of the requirements: Members of the parish must be registered for at least six months prior to requesting the celebration of the sacrament of Initiation.

Youth News

Looking forward in 2009: Members of our youth group have had an amazing and blessed 2008 and are looking forward to 2009. This year, plans are being put into place to allow us to finish the project we started last year: Finding His Image in Song Through Photography. We are also excited to be pursuing an internet venue such as FaceBook that will allow our youth to communicate with other members of the group and keep current on all the activities scheduled in the coming months. We hope by opening the lines of communication, that we will increase participation in our ministry and offer our youth a more positive outlet for their time and talents. Please watch for further updates!

Other Items of Note

FREE Heart Health Screenings on February 1st: The American Heart Association has designated February 1 as "Red Dress Day" to educate people about the symptoms of Heart problems. This year we are fortunate to have representatives of the Ghanaian Nurses Association of Washington DC who have volunteered to give a presentation here at St. Matthias. The presentation will take place in Friendship Hall following the 11:30 am Mass and Blessing of the Throats with **private screenings** available to those who wish to take advantage of them. There will be between 10 and 20 highly qualified nurses who will offer services such as high blood pressure screening and cholesterol screening. The nurses will follow all standard protocols in regards to confidentiality. This is an **entirely free service** so you are encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Any questions? Call Dorothy Mensah-Aggrey at 301-459-4814 x 205.

Altar Society: We are in urgent need of persons to add to our list of volunteers who clean the sacristy and church for the weekend Masses. We are also in need of volunteers to collect and wash the linens which are used during each Mass. You would be scheduled approximately once a month for cleaning or for doing the linens. If we have more people, then we would be able to extend the timeframes. You may volunteer for both cleaning and linens or you may choose to help with only one of them. If you would like to join our group, please call Carmen Kosko at 301-262-5277.



Mass Intentions for the Second Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, January 19:

School & Rectory Closed: Martin Luther King Day
8:30 am Joe & Irene Pezzuti (Wedding Anniversary)

Tuesday, January 20: Fabian, pope & martyr

School & Rectory Closed: Inauguration Day
8:30 am Stanley Dietrich

Wednesday, January 21: Agnes, virgin & martyr

8:30 am Felicidad Felix

Thursday, January 22: Day of Penance

8:30 am Michael Joseph Amanyeiwe (Living, Birthday)

Friday, January 23:

8:30 am Rosemary Lewis (Deceased) & Family (Living)

Sat., January 24: Vigil- Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

5:00 pm Homer Lemmon

Sunday, January 25: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Dominic Carrera

9:30 am Anna Csmos

11:30am Mamie Barbera

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

Phil Ates; Virgie Azarcon; Ann Benson; Leslie Berkey; Barbara Brink; Margaret Carr; Fidel dela Cuesta; Don and Muriel Delaney; Eleanor DeMarco; Lisa Farland; Dennis George; Francis Greenfield; Leslie Hand; Joseph Harrison; Charles Henry; Lena Jacobs; Father Keene; Paula Kelly; Catherine Kipp; Robyn Kirby; Laura Elaine Kiessling; Ray Krok; Nancy Maimone; Joe Makowski; Mary McGrail; Willie (Bill) Moore; Rosemarie Nardozi; Mary Nelson; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Alice Parker; Dawn Pearson; June Provini; Rohland Reich; Joe Sico; Walter Stewart; Marian Wahle; Margaret Zanin; Ryan Zawada **†For The Deceased:** Bruno Zanin **†Names will be placed on our prayer list for three weeks. To add a name or to request continuing prayers, contact Tara Guevara by phone at 301-459-4814 or email tguevara@stmatthias.org.**

Blessing of the Throats

The Feast of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, is usually commemorated on February 3rd. Saint Blaise was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia during the fourth century. Legend holds that he saved the life of a young child who was choking on a piece of bone. He has become the patron saint of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. We will honor his feast and the wonderful sacramental of the blessing of throats after all Masses on February 1st. The custom of using candles which are blessed on February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, are traditionally used for this blessing. In the blessing we ask Saint Blaise to intercede before God to protect the recipient of the blessing from all diseases of the throat and all other illnesses.

SCHOOL RAFFLE WINNER

**Congratulations to Adrienne Byrd (WINNER)
and Damon Byrd (SELLER)
of this week's winning raffle ticket!**