

### From Your Pastor

This week many people of faith, both young and old, will gather once again in our nation's capital to March for Life. Some of our own young people will be present and participating in the Youth Mass at the Verizon Center on Tuesday prior to the March for Life and bearing witness to their own resolve and conviction that all human life is precious and worthy of protection. While many of us have to work and others are unable to travel or march this January 22<sup>nd</sup>, we can all join and participate by supporting the marchers with our prayers and in particular praying for an ever increasing awareness of this gift and a protection of its dignity from conception until natural death. The following is offered as a sample of a prayer you might consider using throughout this week that our faith calls us forth into action to protect and defend the gift of human life:

#### Prayer for Reverence of Life

Almighty God, giver of all that is good,  
we thank you for the precious gift of human life.

For life in womb, coming from your creative power; for the life of children, making us glad with their freshness and promise; for the life of young people, hoping for a better world; for the life of the handicapped and disabled, teaching us humility; and for the life of the elderly, witnessing the ageless values of patience and wisdom. Like Blessed Mary, Mother of God, may we always say yes to your gift. May we defend it and promote it from conception to its natural end and bring us at last Loving Father to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Next weekend we begin the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2008. 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 for those who receive the packet of envelopes you'll find another copy at the end of the month of January offertory envelope packets. 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 45 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 DATES: Visit us for Open House: Jan. 23, Jan. 30 and Feb. 5 from 9 to 11:30am. If these times don't work for you, or for more information, please call the school office at 301-577-9412.

Blessing of Throats: The Feast of Saint Blase, bishop and martyr, is usually commemorated on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Saint Blase 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 2nd and 3rd. The Candles which are blessed on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, are utilized and Saint Blase is asked to be an intercessor before God to protect the recipient of the blessing from all diseases of the throat and all other illnesses.



### Stewardship Report:



#### Revenue

<b>January 14th:</b>	<b>8,763.48</b>
<b>Last Year:</b>	<b>9,044.77</b>
<b>Poor Box:</b>	<b>157.78</b>
<b>Every Penny Counts Box:</b>	<b>54.82</b>
<b>Christmas: (to date)</b>	<b>28,768.32</b>

Number of Adult Envelopes: 276; Number of Children's Envelopes: 14; Number of Faith Direct donors: 32; Number of Registered Households: 663

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!

Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive Update: Thanks to the Parishioners of St. Matthias and their generosity and support for our Tootsie Roll Campaign, **\$455.00** was collected! These funds will be distributed to the local organizations that assist the Mentally Handicapped. Way to go!

#### St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

The 2nd Raffle Drawing was Monday, January 14th.  
**Alicia Nti** (the winner) of Ft. Washington, MD **won \$300**  
**Nndi Ekoh** (the seller) of Bowie, MD **won \$50.**

**Federal Holiday;**  
**Monday January 21, 2008**

Please note that the school and rectory will be closed in observance of the Doctor Martin Luther King, Junior holiday. Both will reopen on Tuesday January 22nd. Also of note; there will be NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES this week in observance of the holiday.

**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](http://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!

**Knights of Columbus Family Shrove Pancake Supper:** will be on Tuesday February 5<sup>th</sup> from 6 PM to 9 PM in Friendship Hall. Sponsored by Mother Seton Council K of C. Costs are \$6.00 per person, \$3.00 per child age 2-12, with a family maximum \$16.00. The meal includes pancakes, sausage, and one beverage. Open to all parishioners – call John Murray at 301-459-6452 or Serafin Avitia at 301-459-5730 and let us know what time you would like to eat and how many will be in your party.

**Faith Formation**

**Faith Formation:** Parents, please remember that classes begin at 6:30 pm prompt and not 6:45 pm. So far, you are doing very well in picking up your children on time. Keep it up. We will be entering our Lenten season soon and this year we have two projects that we would like to work on. Letters will be sent home regarding the projects.

**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 sacraments of Initiation.

**First Penance:** Please keep our children in your prayers as they prepare for the sacrament of First Penance this coming Saturday, January 26 at 10:00pm. Parents, make sure you and your children are seated no later than 9:45 am.

**Confirmation:** Mark your calendar for Sunday, January 27, 2008. Be sure to be present at the 9:30 am Mass during which time you will hand in your signed and completed forms to the presider of the Mass.



**Mass Intentions for the**  
**Second Week in**  
**Ordinary Time**

**Monday, January 21: Agnes, virgin, martyr**

8:30 am Felicidad Felix

**Tuesday, January 22: Day of Penance for**

**Violations Against Life**

8:30 am Michael– Joseph Amanyiwe (lvg– birthday)

**Wednesday, January 23**

8:30 am Hugh McGarvey

**Thursday, January 24: Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor**

8:30 am Dominic Carrera

**Friday, January 25: Conversion of St. Paul, apostle**

8:30 am Sister Marcella Scully

**Saturday, January 26–Vigil: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions Fr. Stan

5:00 pm Teotimo Retumban Fr. Stan

**Sunday, January 27: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Catholic Schools Week 2008 Begins!** This year, the theme of Catholic Schools Week (which runs from January 27 to February 2) is **Catholic Schools Light The Way.**

8:00 am Father Michael Kidd Fr. Bob

9:30 am Joseph Harrison (lvg– healing) Fr. Jeff

11:30am Ethel Randall Fr. Jeff

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

Fr. Augustine Kizito Abizi; Charito Beal; Sue Babbie; Ann Benson; Audrey Brown; Vicky Calizo; Arlene Case; Marco J. Clark; Ann & Ray Degraff; Fidel dela Cuesta; Eleanor DeMarco; Anne Diemer; Bob Drake; Mary Ennis; Fr. Charles Green; Andrea Guiang; Gabriel Guzman; Joseph Harrison; Robert Hoke; Charles Jones; Robyn Kirby; Msgr. Peter Long; 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:** Marie Gilchrist † 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](mailto:tguevara@stmatthias.org).

**Youth Ministry**

**Congratulations To Our Youth!:** Kudos to Chinwendu Amazu on her 4.0 GPA at Eleanor Roosevelt High School where she also plays basketball! See youth, it can be done, and you can do it too! Our Liturgical Dance Ministry has been invited to Praise Dance at Villa Rosa today and our very own Alexa King has been selected to do the first reading at the Rally for Life & Youth Mass to be held Tuesday January 22nd at the Verizon Center. The celebrant for the Mass will be Most Reverend Donald W. Wuerl.

**NASA's Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars (LARSS) Program:** hosted at NASA Langley Research center in Hampton Virginia, offers paid 10-week summer or 15-week fall and spring internship experience for rising college juniors and above. There are also opportunities for outstanding rising High School Seniors, College Freshman and Sophomores.