

## § From The School Principal >

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, a time to celebrate the good news in Catholic education. At St. Matthias, we are committed to providing a faith-filled learning environment where children can grow spiritually, intellectually, and socially. We are so blessed to have a school where character education is an integral part of a child's formal learning and where every student feels safe and secure in a nurturing environment.

This year's theme for Catholic Schools Week is "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service". Our school community is living the theme through our study-buddy program, peer tutoring, food and clothing drives for the area's needy, and assembling personal hygiene kits for distribution in homeless shelters. The spirit of generosity and service is a hallmark of our school.

Our school community has much to celebrate! Our devoted pastor, dedicated faculty and staff, parents who sacrifice in order to send their children to St. Matthias School, and parishioners who support the needs of our school are what make our school thrive. I want to thank you for your ongoing support as we look ahead to continuing our mission of faith and service.

Please take note of the school tour dates listed below, and encourage family, friends, and neighbors to consider St. Matthias Apostle School for the coming school year.

◆ *Pat Wilson* ◆

## School News

**School Open House Tour Dates:** Open House tours will be held 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.

- Tours on: January 28 and February 4 from 9am until 11:30am
- Testing for incoming students will be held on February 27th at 1:15pm.



**Recycling Makes a Difference and Supports Our School!** Please remember to help beautify the environment and save a tree or two along the way by recycling the paper products of your home. **You also help our school raise a little extra money by your efforts.** We have a special dumpster on our parish property to collect waste paper for recycling. The dumpster for waste paper is located in the rear parking lot next to the storage sheds. It is bright yellow and green and marked clearly "**for paper only!**" You may drop off your paper recycling products anytime...**we accept newspapers, scrap paper and mail; magazines, small catalogs, junk mail, and the like.** We **DO NOT accept the following: NO CARDBOARD; NO PHONE BOOKS, NO PLASTIC BAGS OR DEBRIS (use a PAPER bag to place your waste paper in for drop off!).**



**Box Tops for Education:** Look for the Box Tops for Education symbol on hundreds of products at your local store. Simply clip the top and return it to our school, and we earn 10 cents for each top we turn in. In the past several years, that has added up to nearly \$2,000 in financial assistance to the school! Please go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for more information on the program and to find other ways to help!



## Stewardship Report:



### Revenue

**Christmas Collection to Date: 32,651.60**

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>January 18:</b>             | <b>7,386.44</b> |
| <b>Faith Direct:</b>           | <b>1,351.25</b> |
| <b>Total Offertory:</b>        | <b>8,737.69</b> |
| <b>Last Year:</b>              | <b>8,712.56</b> |
| <b>Poor Box:</b>               | <b>145.00</b>   |
| <b>Every Penny Counts Box:</b> | <b>35.38</b>    |

Number of Adult Envelopes: 245  
Number of Children's Envelopes: 13  
Number of Faith Direct donors: 37  
Number of Registered Households: 660

◆ **Second Collection:** Our second collection THIS WEEK is for our school. Join us in support of Catholic Schools week!

**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). Contribution statements will be mailed sometime toward 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.

**2009 Archbishop's Appeal Begins:** Many of our parishioners either



have or soon will receive a mailing from Archbishop Wuerl. He will ask that you make a pledge to the 2009 Archbishop's Appeal. The Appeal not only funds the operations of the Archdiocese, it funds services that are of great help to the

ministries here in our parish. For example, the appeal helps to fund several school families with scholarships to help offset tuition costs and enable them to provide a Catholic education for their children. Last year the Appeal provided \$2,423,140 in tuition assistance for Catholic school students, assistance to inner city schools, parish religious educational programs and CYO. This year, the theme of the Appeal is, "For the Glory of God". Clearly, everything that we do to live out our faith gives glory to God. Our contributions to our parish and our Archdiocese multiply the glory that we give to our God by enabling ministries and services that touch thousands of lives.

Please prayerfully consider a pledge to the 2009 Archbishop's Appeal.

**PARISHIONER CHANGES:** If there have been any changes to your household this year, please notify the rectory as soon as possible. Please send any changes to your address, your name or members of your household to [tguevara@stmatthias.org](mailto:tguevara@stmatthias.org) or drop off the changes in writing at the rectory.

## Faith Formation

**Faith Formation and Inclement Weather:** 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 follow the PG county policy regarding inclement weather so if PG county after school programs are closed, so will we.

**Confirmation:** The Confirmation candidates made a very important step today by handing in their Rite of Enrolment forms at the 9:30 am mass. Please keep the candidates and their families in your prayers as they continue to journey towards this third sacrament of Initiation. The next Parent/Candidate meeting will be held on Monday, February 2 at 6:45 pm in Friendship Hall. At least one parent must attend with each candidate.

**First Penance:** Please keep our children in your prayers as they prepare for the sacrament of First Penance this coming Saturday, January 31 at 10:00am.

## Other Items of Note

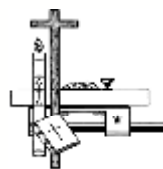
**FREE Heart Health Screenings on February 1st:** The American Heart Association has designated February 1 as "Red Dress Day" to educate people about the symptoms of Heart problems. This year we are fortunate to have representatives of the Ghanaian Nurses Association of Washington DC who have volunteered 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.

**Lou Gehrig's Disease Informational Meeting:** The KOC will have a guest speaker from the ALS Association to talk about Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease) at their next social meeting on February 17th at 8:00pm in Friendship Hall. All are welcome to attend this presentation to learn more about this disease.

## Blessing of the Throats

The Feast of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, is usually commemorated on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.



## Mass Intentions for the Third Week in Ordinary Time

### Monday, January 26:

8:30 am Natasha Andrews (Living- Birthday)

### Tuesday, January 27:

8:30 am Rosemary Lewis and Family

### Wednesday, January 28:

8:30 am Barbara J. Wahle (Living- Birthday)

### Thursday, January 29:

8:30 am Deacon Albert S. Tompa

### Friday, January 30:

8:30 am Father Jeff (Living- Birthday)

### Sat., January 31: Vigil- Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions**

5:00 pm James Curran

### Sunday, February 1: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Theresa Lacoverly

9:30 am Robert Hoke

11:30am Mrs. Patience Osuji and Family

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

Phil Ates; Virgie Azarcon; Carla Baez; 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 Nardoizzi; 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](mailto:tguevara@stmatthias.org).*

## Youth Group

**Talent Showcase:** Do you remember the 70's and the 80's? Our Youth Group wants to put on a Showcase of Talents from this time period and we need your help! Do you remember the Music, Dances, TV Commercials, History Tidbits, the Attire or more? Did you ever want to be a Supreme, Beatle, Jackson 5 or Osmond? Then here is your opportunity. There will be a meeting on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> in Friendship Hall from 7:30 to 8:30pm to plan for this event. Parents teach your child about those things that you enjoyed about the 70's and the 80's! Please watch the Bulletin for information on how you can be a part of or contribute to the process! Let's have some fun!

## SCHOOL RAFFLE WINNER

**Congratulations to The Diarra Family**

(WINNER)

and **Salim Diarra (SELLER)**

of this week's winning raffle ticket!

