

Love's Journey:
Our 2008 Lenten Schedule of Worship & Activities

Lenten Regulations for Catholics

In preparation for the paschal mysteries of Easter, Catholics are reminded of the following regulations for the forty days of Lent: **All Catholics over fourteen years of age must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday (February 6th) and all Fridays of Lent, including Good Friday (March 21st). On both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine should fast.** This means only one full meal that day. Other meals on those days should be of small portion. Snacking should be avoided. One is excused from the obligation if his/her health or work would be seriously affected by this fast and/or abstinence. The Lenten observance of our day places emphasis on prayer, the liturgy, good works, self-denial, and the giving of alms to the poor.

Daily Rosary

Recited at 8:00am Monday through Friday

Lenten Weekday Mass

Monday through Friday at 8:30am

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday of Lent at 7:30pm

Confessions

Every Wednesday of Lent starting February 13th

From 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Every Saturday from 3:30pm to 4:30pm

Good Friday (March 21st) from 10:00am to 11:00am

Or by appointment with a parish priest

Catholics and Bible Basics

**Tuesday evenings of Lent beginning February 12th
from 7:00 to 8:15 PM in the School Library.**

Father Jeff will offer a five week course on Bible Basics covering how Catholics read, reflect upon, and interpret the Holy Scriptures; a simple, practical guide to enhance and encourage greater reading and usage of the Bible in everyday Catholic spirituality. Teens, young adults and adults are welcomed. Please, no small children. A limited quantity of study bibles will be available to those participating in the Bible Basics course for a nominal fee.

Lenten Coin Folders

These colorful and simple tools are available for those who wish to have a practical way to give alms to the poor during Lent. Add a quarter or fifty-cents a day to your coin folder and donate the proceeds during Holy Week to the Poor Box.

Lenten Spiritual Literature

There are several titles available in the pamphlet rack in the church to assist you in your Lenten Journey. Many of the titles are free, although we ask that you make a free will gift to the Poor Box for any of those materials you take. Other more substantial titles are available for a small fee which we ask you to give to the Poor Box or place in the Offertory Basket at Mass. Those titles have envelopes attached with instructions for your convenience.

Stewardship Report:



Revenue

February 4th:	10,090.04
Faith Direct:	1,039.00
Total Offertory:	11,129.04
Last Year:	12,640.64
Poor Box:	237.32
Every Penny Counts Box:	65.91
Our Parish School Collection	1,331.00

Number of Adult Envelopes: 264
Number of Children's Envelopes: 7
Number of Faith Direct donors: 31
Number of Registered Households: 668

2008 Archbishop's Appeal Begins: This weekend Father Jeff will lead us in our in-pew pledge and gift. The theme of this year's appeal is "The Lord is my Light and my Salvation." As you reflect upon this theme, consider God's gift of salvation and the many other gifts that He constantly gives you. Please prayerfully consider your gift to the appeal and your support of the various missions of the church community.

Second Collection: Our second collection **next week** will be for the Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Catholics in the United States have an opportunity to be this light for our brothers and sisters in need, to help to build parishes and ministries through the **Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe**. Your generous donation will support seminaries, social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral centers, schools, church construction and renovation, and the spreading of the Gospel message through the mass media.

Scripture on Stewardship: What temptations keep us from the path of discipleship? Possessions? Pride? Power? Oh Lord, create for us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us!

St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

The 5th Raffle Drawing was Monday, February 4th

Patricia Stanard of Washington, DC **won \$300**

The seller, **Veronica Wander** from Lanham, MD **won \$50**

Thank You!

On behalf of the teachers, staff, and students at St. Matthias School, I want to express my thanks for your generous response to the annual School Stewardship Appeal. Your contribution helps to sustain a high level of instruction and learning in a safe and faith-filled school environment. We also appreciate the many gifts you sent to the school through our Giving Tree program.

Gratefully,
Pat Wilson
Principal

Other Items of Note:

Candlemas: Saturday, February 2nd is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The prophet Simeon would declare Him to be a “light for His people.” It is a custom that candles, to be used in church and in homes, are blessed upon this feast day. A limited number of Candlemas candles will be available after some of the Masses for the cost of \$3.00 per box.

School News: Open Registration is being held Tuesday, February 12-14th from 8:30am to 11:30am each day. New student testing is being held Friday, February 29th at 1:15pm. A child must be registered at open registration in order to test. For additional information, contact Vivian Mason at 301-577-9412.

Help Feed the Homeless: Five times a year, St. Matthias participates in the “Feed the Homeless” program at the First United Methodist Church in Hyattsville. The next scheduled date is Wednesday, February 20th. Volunteers are needed to prepare various dishes to be served. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Please contact Gwen Johnson at 301-249-1109 for more information, to make a donation or to sign up to help!

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.

“The Light Is On For You” is an archdiocesan initiative to allow all Catholics to avail themselves of the sacrament of reconciliation. Confession is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and to draw closer to our Lord. Confessions will be held every Wednesday during Lent from 6:30pm to 8:00pm in every Catholic church in the Archdiocese of Washington. If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament, have been away for some time or just found it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon confession time, this is a wonderful opportunity to re-connect with Christ and His Church. **Confessions here at St. Matthias** will be held in the church every Wednesday during Lent from 7:00pm to 8:00pm, on Saturdays from 3:30pm to 4:30pm or by appointment with one of our parish priests.

Faith Formation

First Communion Parent Meeting: This mandatory meeting will be held on Monday, February 11th at 6:45 pm. This meeting is for **parents only**. Your children’s books will be distributed to you at this time. Please make it a point to attend this meeting as no make-up meeting will be held.

Please take Note: There will be **no class on Monday, February 18th** as the nation celebrates President’s Day. We will reconvene on Monday, February 25 at our usual time.

RCIA: Please remember the RCIA candidates in your prayers as they begin this final phase towards full reception and communion into the Church. This Sunday we will celebrate the Rite of Enrollment and Sending and next Sunday afternoon, they will go to the Basilica for the Rite of Continuing Conversion.

Have you thought of any Lenten Practices? Faith Formation will come up with a special project this year. In the mean time, we can support the 7th graders from the school who are currently collecting gently used “sneakers” or sports shoes for a special project. Containers will be placed at the entrance of the church for these collections.

“Give and gifts will be given to you, a good measure, packed together, shaken down, overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”
Luke 6:38



Mass Intentions for the First Week of Lent

Monday, February 11: Our Lady of Lourdes

8:30 am Deacon Harvey Ballard

Tuesday, February 12

8:30 am Helen Zatorski (living)

Wednesday, February 13

8:30 am Tolly Campbell

Thursday, February 14: Cyril, monk and Methodius, bshp

8:30 am Henry Kosko

Friday, February 15

8:30 am Pat & Joe Makowski (living)

7:30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 16–Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

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

5:00 pm Innocencio Altares Fr. Jeff

Sunday, February 17: Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 am Virginia Craig (living/healing) Fr. Stan

9:30 am Joseph Sico (living/healing) Fr. Jeff

11:30am Agnes Snowden Fr. Jeff

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

Fr. Augustine Kizito Abizi; Sue Babbie; Ann Benson; Audrey Brown; Vicky Calizo; Arlene Case; Marco J. Clark; Virginia Craig; Fidel dela Cuesta; Eleanor DeMarco; Anne Diemer; Tom Donohue; Bob Drake; Mary Ennis; Ferris (Bo) George; Fr. Charles Green; Andrea Guiang; Gabriel Guzman; Joseph Harrison; Robert Hoke; Charles Jones; Robyn Kirby; Msgr. Peter Long; Msgr. John Madigan; 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 †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.

Stations of the Cross



An ancient Lenten devotion of the Church is the Stations of the Cross. This practice was brought back to Europe after the early pilgrims came to the Holy Land and walked through the streets of Jerusalem in commemoration of the sufferings of Jesus. The fourteen stations were originally erected around the outside of the parish church, but were soon moved within because of the harsh climate of northern Europe during Lent. To pray the Stations together is to return to a devotion, which for untold generations, has made real the

extraordinary love God manifested in the suffering and death of the Lord. Come five minutes early and look to the Cross of Jesus as part of Lenten reflection.

Each Friday of Lent we will have the Stations of the Cross at 7:30PM in the Church. Come and walk the way of the cross with our Lord during Lent!