

Love's Journey: Ideas for Lenten Self-Denials and Charity

Seventh Grade Shoe Collection Drive

The Seventh grade needs your help! We have started a Lenten project that involves collecting "used but not abused" adult athletic shoes, sizes 7 and larger. The shoes will be shipped to Ghana and get refurbished there. The shoes will then be sold to street vendors. The money profited will be used to train farmers in techniques that yield more food and help protect the earth. Our goal is to collect 600 pairs of shoes, and we are on our way with 59 pairs of shoes. Kofi, the farmer, greatly appreciates your generosity and support. "Give us the shoes you don't wear on your feet so other may eat." Shoe drop-off is in the front school office, or you may put the shoes in the large box in the church vestibule. The collection lasts throughout Lent. Thank you for your support of our class project to make a difference to others during this Lenten season!

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!

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.

Recycling Makes A Difference!

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 end up helping our school raise a little extra money for 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!).** Amazingly between the rectory and school alone we collected nearly 25 tons of waste paper since last year. Join us in being faithful stewards of creation by recycling instead of throwing things away. It's easy and it helps save the planet for our children and it helps us to educate them right now. Make a difference by pitching in! Start your own home recycling bin today!

In addition, you can recycle your used ink and toner cartridges through our Parish school. There is a drop off box in the Church and you can also drop off used cartridges at the school office. When you purchase a new ink or toner cartridge, simply place the used one inside the new box and drop it off. Not only are you helping the environment, you are also helping to raise funds which benefit the technology programs in the school!

Stewardship Report:



Revenue

February 11th:	8571.13
Faith Direct:	1,039.00
Total Offertory:	9610.13
Last Year:	9783.25
Poor Box:	195.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	46.20
Our Parish School Collection	TBA

Number of Adult Envelopes: 262
Number of Children's Envelopes: 7
Number of Faith Direct donors: 31
Number of Registered Households: 668

2008 Archbishop's Appeal Begins: Last 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 **this 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.

Faith Direct: Have you signed up for Faith Direct? This program is an easy way to give your contributions to the church each month through an automatic debit to a bank account or credit card. By using Faith Direct, you provide the Church with a steady and dependable source of income which is used to operate the various programs here at the Church. If you did not receive a form, please call the rectory office.

School and Rectory Offices Closed



The School and Rectory offices will be closed tomorrow February 18th in observance of President's Day and will reopen on Tuesday, February 19th. There will be no Faith Formation classes this week.

St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

The 5th Raffle Drawing was Monday, February 4th
Richard Kosko of Mitchellville, MD **won \$300**
The seller, **Hector Perez** from College Park, MD **won \$50**

Our 2008 Lenten Schedule of Worship & Activities

Catholics and Bible Basics

Tuesday evenings of Lent from 7:00 to 8:15 PM in the School Library. In case of inclement weather, check Father Jeff's voice mail at the rectory one hour prior to the start of class.

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 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



"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.

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.



Mass Intentions for the Second Week of Lent

Mass Intentions for the deceased or for special intentions are available by calling Tara in the Rectory Office at 301-459-4814 (ext 201).

Monday, February 18: President's Day

**SCHOOL AND RECTORY CLOSED TODAY
NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**

8:30 am Christina Enahoro (Living)

Tuesday, February 19

8:30 am Don Falls (Living)

7:00 pm Catholics and Bible Basics Class with Father Jeff

Wednesday, February 20

8:30 am Christina Enahoro (Living)

7:00 pm Confessions until 8pm in the church

Thursday, February 21: Peter Damian, bishop, doctor

8:30 am Susanna Amanyeiwe

Friday, February 22: Chair of St. Peter, apostle

8:30 am George Tach

7:30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 23—Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

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

5:00 pm Robert Grove Fr. Stan

Sunday, February 24: Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 am Benefactors of our Parish Fr. Stan

9:30 am Tommy Oplaski (Living) Fr. Jeff

11:30am Pasquale Ciccone 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; Carol McDonagh; Bill Moore; Larry Murphy; Michael Nardoizzi; Joseph Sico; Anna Stewart; Veronica Verna; Phil Vullo; †For Our Military Serving in Afghanistan or Iraq: Brian A. Densmore † For Our Deceased: Josephine Cocchiario; Art Baker 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.

Other Items of Note:

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.

Grief Support Group: Find support and understanding as you grieve. For those who have experienced significant losses in their lives, St. Matthias Parish in Lanham offers an opportunity to obtain grief support. Sessions are held at 9AM each Saturday in the school library. For more information please contact - Miriam Jacik MSN, MSPsy at (301) 345-6054