



**§ Papal Mass Ticket Information! >  
Ticket Request Forms for  
Parish Lottery Begin Today!**

Our parish looks forward with Catholics and Christians and peoples of all faiths to welcoming His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI to Washington, DC on his first official visit to this country since being elected Pope three years ago. He will arrive in Washington on April 15<sup>th</sup> and on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> will celebrate a Papal Mass in the new Nationals Baseball Stadium at 10 AM.

Seating is limited to 45,000 participants and each parish within our Archdiocese has now been allotted a portion of the tickets to be distributed at the discretion of each pastor. Saint Matthias Parish was allotted *125 tickets* for the Papal Mass. This is a truly historical event and many have already indicated to me an interest in going. After consulting with other pastors and with some of our parish leadership, I will offer a small portion of the allotted tickets to parishioners who have consistently gone above and beyond in their generosity through sharing of time, talent, or treasure to our parish over the years and to my immediate staff and their spouses. I've also reserved one for my mother, a pastoral decision I'm certain you'll all agree upon! The remaining tickets will be distributed in a lottery to be held by drawing names from those who submit them beginning this weekend.

A special insert is enclosed in this week's bulletin. I will accept requests until Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Completed forms can be dropped off at the rectory or placed in the Offertory Baskets at Mass. Drawing of names will take place on Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> and recipients will be notified by telephone that day. We will also create a waiting list in case tickets are returned or additional ones become available. Those requesting tickets must be registered parishioners and regular, consistent stewards of our parish. Please make certain that you separately list the name of EACH PERSON who requests a ticket from your household. In order to allow the maximum number of parishioners to attend it may be necessary to limit the number of tickets requested by any one household. This would be determined once I see the actual number of requests I receive.

Those who are elderly or handicapped are welcomed to request tickets. However, if you need special accommodations the Archdiocese will need to know this in advance, so kindly indicate your specific need on the request for tickets form (i.e. wheelchair bound; unable to walk long distances due to medical reasons, etc.). Tickets may not be transferred or sold. If a recipient is unable to attend, the ticket should be returned to the pastor for distribution to the next person on the waiting list. Please check the archdiocesan website ([www.adw.org](http://www.adw.org)) for the do's and don'ts of those attending the Mass...what you can and can not bring into the ballpark, etc.

I hope that either I or Father Bob will speak directly to you at all of our Masses this weekend to walk you through the request form...if you are confused or have questions by all means see one of us after Mass and we'll try to assist you in any way possible. Good luck...start filling your requests out for this once in a lifetime spiritual event!



**Stewardship Report:**



**Revenue**

<b>March 3rd :</b>	<b>11,590.00</b>
<b>Faith Direct:</b>	<b>1,039.00</b>
<b>Total Offertory:</b>	<b>12,629.00</b>
<b>Last Year:</b>	<b>14,056.00</b>
<b>Poor Box:</b>	<b>287.77</b>
<b>Every Penny Counts Box:</b>	<b>84.43</b>

Number of Adult Envelopes: 306; Number of Children's Envelopes: 11; Number of Faith Direct donors: 31; Number of Registered Households: 656

**Easter Mailing:** The annual parish Easter Mailing should be arriving in your mailbox within the coming week. Inside you will find information on Holy Week, Pope Benedict XVI Commemoratives and additional Easter materials. Most importantly, you will find your Easter Offertory and Flower Offering Envelopes. Please be sure to complete your Flower Offering envelope and return it to the rectory by March 16th if you would like your names to be included in the Easter Flower List.



**Did you receive your offertory envelopes for April, May & June?** Quarterly offertory envelopes should have arrived in your mailbox! If you did not receive your envelopes, or if there has been a change of address for your household, please contact Tara in the rectory at 301-459-4814 or email her at [tguevara@stmatthias.org](mailto:tguevara@stmatthias.org)

**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 and would like to sign up for this service, please call the rectory office.

**Seventh Grade Shoe Collection Drive:** 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, get refurbished there, and 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 with your help. 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!

**St. Matthias School Openings for 2008/2009**

There are a limited number of openings for the 2008-2009 school year in Pre-kindergarten and 4th grade. Please contact Vivian Mason in the school office at 301-306-4582 for further information.

**St. Matthias School Raffle 2008**

The 8th Raffle Drawing was Monday, February 25th

**Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Thibeau** of Lanham, MD **won \$350**

They were the winners AND the sellers

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.**

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

Easter Items:



**Easter Duty:** The Easter Duty is more properly called the Paschal Precept. This states that all the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Eucharist, are obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday. Those in serious sin are also bound to go to confession at least once a year, preferably in this time. (Canons 920 and 989)

**Easter Flowers:** The Easter mailing will soon arrive in your mailbox. Please be sure to fill out your Easter Flower offering in advance and enclose the names of those you wish to remember and honor and return your offering to the rectory prior to March 16th.

Faith Formation:

**Faith Formation Calendar:** Parents take note that we have a two-week break coming up. There will be no classes on Monday March 17 and 24 due to Easter preparation and celebration.

I trust you will teach your children the faith by bringing them to participate in the Easter Triduum. Our next session will be held on Monday, March 31, 2008.

**RCIA:** Continue to pray for our Elect who are almost at the end of the first phase of their journey so to speak. Being received into full communion with the Church or completing one's sacraments of Initiation are just the beginning steps to a more fulfilling relationship with the Lord.

Youth News:

**Living Stations Presentation on Good Friday:** The Teens of our parish are excited, willing, and enthusiastic about their upcoming presentation! They, along with our Youth Choir will present, "My Sins Were the Nails That Hung Him from the Cross" on Good Friday at 7:30PM. The presentation is an interpretation of the Stations of the Cross. It is a compilation of traditional, mixed with a contemporary adaptation, coupled with congregational participation! **Please set this evening aside with your family to join us for this special presentation.** If you can't be with us, join us in spirit! Listed are a few areas we need some help with: serving pizza on Good Friday at 12:00 (noon); set up and clean up the before and after the meal; providing drinks for the teens; make-up for Jesus (someone with theatrical make-up experience); help to set-up and break down the Garden of Gethsemane; and place the Platform and Cross before and after event. If you can volunteer for any of the above please contact Mrs. Sarah Green at (301) 306-9054.

Mass Intentions for the Fifth Week of Lent



**Monday, March 10**

8:30 am Dora Defayette

**Tuesday, March 11**

8:30 am Joshua Guevara (living/birthday)

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

**Wednesday, March 12**

8:30 am Frank Carpino

7:00 pm Confessions until 8pm in the church

**Thursday, March 13**

8:30 am Ladies of Charity

**Friday, March 14**

8:30 am Father Jeff (7th anniversary as Pastor)

7:30pm Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, March 15—Vigil: Palm Sunday**

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

Fr. Jeff

5:00 pm George Alfred Jones

Fr. Jeff

**Sunday, March 16: Palm Sunday**

8:00 am Bernard Campbell

Fr. Stan

9:30 am Catherine DePietro

Fr. Jeff

11:30am Pasquale Ciccone

Fr. Bob

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

Fr. Augustine Kizito Abizi; Pearl Aitcheson; Fidel dela Cuesta; Mary Ennis; Ferris (Bo) George; Joseph Harrison; Robert Hoke; Charles Jones; Katie Kennedy; Robyn Kirby; Nancy Maimone; Carol McDonagh; Bill Moore; Larry Murphy; Ryan Zawada **†For Our Military Serving in Afghanistan or Iraq:** Spc. Michael J. Chiddo; Brian A. Densmore; Ryan A. Morgan **† 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).**

Visits to the St. Matthias Convent Chapel:

For a whole year, from January 19, 2007 to January 21, 2009, our congregation, the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine (in Vietnam and the USA province) celebrates its Golden Jubilee. During this grace-filled year, the Apostolic Penitentiary has granted plenary indulgences to all those who visit to our chapels on certain feast days under the usual conditions. The "usual conditions" for a plenary indulgence are sacramental Confession, Communion, prayer for the Pope's intentions, and the absence of attachment to sin.

Please join the Dominican Sisters on the following dates  
from **9:00 am to 7:00 pm:** March 15th & April 29th  
(Additional dates will be printed in upcoming bulletins throughout the year)

Altar Servers:

We would like to congratulate the following new Altar Servers who completed their training and were installed last Sunday at the 9:30am Mass: Barbara Pfarr, Natalie Brace, Chinonso Nwagwu, Chinauekpele Onuaku, Steve Ezeani and Uchenna Amazu. God bless your service to St. Matthias!

Many thanks to the Altar Servers Guardians who dedicated many hours in training and preparing the new servers: Marin Kwapinski, Una Murphy, Cynthia Faust and Joe Rubenstahl. God bless you all!