

Today, we solemnly begin the most Holy Week of the year. We are invited to join our suffering to that of the Lord Jesus. We are asked to pause to prayerfully reflect and participate in the grace-filled liturgies of this sacred week. Our Holy Week schedule is once again placed here for your reference and I invite us all to be active participants in the liturgies of this week. Set aside the time to come to church and join the universal Church as we commemorate the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Might I also remind you of your 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 (February 10th) and Trinity Sunday (June 18th). Those in serious sin are also bound to go to confession at least once a year, again, preferably in this time. (Canons 920 and 989).

Holy Week Schedule

Monday of Holy Week, March 17

Mass at 8:30am: Christine P. Prieto Fr. Stan

Tuesday of Holy Week, March 18

Mass at 8:30am: Frank Carpino Fr. Bob

Wednesday of Holy Week, March 19

Mass at 8:30am: Mary Troup (living) Fr. Jeff
Confessions 7:00-8:00pm Fr. Bob

Sacred Triduum

Holy Thursday—Mass of the Lord's Supper, March 20

Morning Prayer at 8:30am Fr. Jeff

☩ *Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30pm
with Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00pm*
Special Intention Fr. Jeff

Good Friday, March 21

Morning Prayer at 8:30am Fr. Jeff
Confessions from 10:00 to 11:00am only Fr. Jeff

☩ *Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at 12 Noon*
Veneration of the Cross; and Holy Communion Fr. Stan

☩ *Living Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm* Fr. Bob

Holy Saturday, March 22

Decorating of the Church from 9:00am to 11:30am
Blessing of Easter Food and Baskets at 12 Noon Fr. Jeff
(Note: No Saturday confessions or 5:00pm Vigil Mass)

☩ *Easter Vigil (the First Easter Mass) at 8:00pm*
Intn: George O. Defayette & Harry Yokum Fr. Jeff

Easter Sunday, March 23

8:00am: Family, Friends & Benefactors of: Fr. Jeff
9:30am: Family and Friends of: Fr. Bob
11:30am: Family & Friends of: Fr. Stan

Please Pray for: †The Sick and Homebound In Our Parish: Fr. Augustine Kizito Abizi; Pearl Aitcheson; Fidel dela Cuesta; Mary Ennis; Lisa Farland; 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 **†For Our Deceased:** Carl Leveck, Reverend Harry W. Jacobs, Eileen Leahy **†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.**



Stewardship Report:



Revenue

March 11th :	9,412.60
Faith Direct:	1,100.00
Total Offertory:	10,512.60
Last Year:	14,056.96
Poor Box:	211.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	30.78

Number of Adult Envelopes: 247; Number of Children's Envelopes: 13; Number of Faith Direct donors: 34; Number of Registered Households: 656



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

Good Friday Collection: When the Annual Collection for the Shrines of the Holy Land is taken up, we cannot help but think of the land that was touched in a special way by the footsteps of Jesus. The Christians of the Holy Land are the descendants and inheritors of the early Christians. Their presence around the holy sites ensures these places remain living communities of faith rather than bare, stony ruins. They look especially to Catholics in the United States to support them in their time of trial. Our offerings do so much more than preserve buildings or sacred sites; they care for the needs—material and spiritual—of the people now dwelling where Christ lived, worked and died. Please be as generous as you can to the **Annual Collection for the Shrines of the Holy Land.**

Please note: There will be **two collections on Easter Sunday.** The first collection will be for your regular weekly offering to the parish. The second collection will be for your Easter gift to the church. May we suggest that you consider making your Easter gift the same as your Christmas gift from this past December 25th? This level of sacrifice will truly help our parish at this time of year. Thank you as always for your continuing generosity and stewardship!

Lenten Coin Folders: Please return your Lenten coin offering folders this weekend. Proceeds will be donated to the Poor Box. If you use coins rather than bills or check, please place folders in a ziplock or plastic grocery bag.

Easter Flowers: The deadline for Easter Flower Memorials is today, Palm Sunday, if you desire to have your family name or the name of a deceased loved one acknowledged in the Easter bulletin. We suggest a minimum offering of \$10.00 to help defray the cost of flowers, plants, and other materials associated with decorating our church at Easter.

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!

Easter Items:

Easter Decorators: We are looking for volunteers to assist in decorating the church for Easter. Decorating will take place on Saturday, March 22nd from 9:00am to 11:30am. Teen and adult parishioners are welcome! Please, no small children! Please contact the rectory office to volunteer.

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)

What Do I Do With Old Palms? Palm branches that we blessed on Palm Sunday of years past may be disposed of by burning them in a "clean" fire (i.e. a fireplace or furnace, or a campfire) or they may be placed back into the earth to decay naturally (i.e. in your garden or a wooded area) and they may also be buried. Please **do not** dispose of them in your regular trash...they are blessed and should be returned to the earth from which they came.

Faith Formation:

Easter Break: There will be no classes held on Monday, March 17th and 24th, 2008. We begin Holy Week today, Sunday, March 16th and each family is encouraged to participate in the Triduum liturgical celebrations. Classes will resume on Monday, March 31st at 6:30 p.m. Have a blessed Easter Season!

Confirmation Retreat: will be held here at St. Matthias on Saturday, April 19th from 9:00 am. to 3:00 p.m. This retreat is mandatory. Confirmation Ceremony will be held during the 5:00 p.m. Mass on **Saturday, May 10, 2008**. The rehearsal will be held on Thursday, May 8 from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

First Communion retreat: will be held here at St. Matthias on Saturday, April 26th from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. First Communion will be celebrated on **Saturday, May 10, 2008** at 10:00 a.m.

Other Items of Note:

Outdoor Votive Light Offerings: We will continue our outdoor votive lights at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart and at the Shrine of the Madonna and Child beginning Sunday, March 23rd. These votive lights may burn in memory of a deceased loved one; to honor a special occasion; or for the special intentions of a loved one or friend. Votive candles are \$5.00 and burn for 6 to 7 days...they will burn from Sunday through Saturday each week for the intentions listed in the bulletin. Candles will be placed there by the church staff...no private candles may be utilized in the shrine votive stands. Think ahead and visit the rectory offices to make arrangements for a special votive light as a sign of a prayer that remains at the feet of Jesus and Mary. We have special cards for your use. Votive lights will burn from Easter through late November each year. Requests are honored on a first come, first served basis. No more than 10 requests may be made at any one time and the office may limit unreasonable requests in order to fulfill as many parish requests as possible and remain fair to all who desire this special Catholic devotion.

LOC Food Pantry in Need of Donations!

The Ladies of Charity operate a food pantry which serves the needy in our local community. As spring approaches, more needy families have been able to come to our parish to receive a bag of groceries. The food pantry provides an assortment of non-perishable foods in each bag which encompasses basic nutritional needs. Our pantry is desperately low on many items. Please consider contributing any of the following non-perishable food items to our pantry: **Tuna Fish, Peanut Butter, Canned Fruit, Canned Meats, Soup, Spaghetti/Pasta/Rice, Spaghetti Sauce, Cereal, Beans, Crackers & Canned Vegetables**

Rectory Office Hours for Holy Week/Easter:

Please note that the rectory office will close on Holy Thursday, March 20th at noon in observance of the Sacred Triduum. The office will be closed on Good Friday, March 21st as well as on Easter Monday, March 24th in order to give our staff a well deserved rest and time with their families. Please plan ahead for any business you may have to conduct with any parish staff member in these final days before their Easter break.

What is the Triduum?

The term Triduum means "three days." The **Triduum** is the three-day celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ - Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday. The Triduum is really one single celebration that lasts for three days! Lent really ends at dusk on Holy Thursday. Our forty-day preparation is complete on Holy Thursday. The three days are counted as the Hebrews counted their days, from dusk to dusk. Therefore, the three days of the Easter Triduum are from dusk on Holy Thursday to dusk on Good Friday (day one), dusk on Good Friday to dusk on Holy Saturday (day two), and dusk on Holy Saturday to dusk on Easter Sunday (day three). Each of those days "tells" a different part of the story of Jesus' saving action. On Holy Thursday we remember the Last Supper. Jesus gives us the Eucharist and tells us to "Do this in memory of me." He then washes the feet of the apostles. On Good Friday we remember the passion and death of Jesus. We celebrate the resurrection of Christ either at the Easter Vigil on Saturday night when new members are baptized and welcomed into our Catholic community or on Easter Sunday morning.

On Holy Thursday, all regular morning masses are suspended to allow for only one mass, the mass of the Last Supper held in the evening. Thus the Triduum begins with the mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday; it reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, celebrated on Saturday night. There are practices we experience only during the Triduum throughout the entire year: the washing of the feet, the veneration of the cross, the service of light, the singing of the Exultet, the baptism of the elect, and the reception of the candidates into full membership in the Catholic Church.

St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

The Raffle Drawing for Monday, March 10th
Florence & Sam Harris of Bowie, MD **won \$350**
They were the winners AND the sellers

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! Volunteers are needed! If you can assist us, please contact:

Mrs. Sarah Green at (301) 306-9054