

Visiting Priest

Next Sunday, March 29th, at the 9:30am Mass, we welcome Reverend Melvin Blanchette, a priest of the Society of St. Sulpice and the Archdiocese of Detroit. He is currently the 14th rector of the Theological College, the national seminary of the Catholic University of America, which our own seminarian, Jared Suire currently attends. Father Blanchette served as a formation advisor and spiritual director at the Theological College from July 2004-2007. Until June of 2004, he was the director of the Vatican II Institute at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, CA. Prior to this, he served as director of the Center for Continuing Formation at St. Mary's Seminary and University of Baltimore, Maryland. He also served as director of Formation and of Personnel Services for the Society of St. Sulpice. Earlier, Father Blanchette chaired the pastoral counseling department at Loyola College in Columbia, Maryland, where he also coordinated the doctoral studies program. A licensed psychologist in Maryland and the District of Columbia, his career has centered on bridging the gap between theology, spirituality, and psychology with a view to aiding clergy and others to integrate their lives and ministries more effectively. He is co-editor of *Pastoral Counseling and The Art of Clinical Supervision: A Pastoral Counseling Perspective, Grace Under Pressure, Stewards of the Mysteries of God* written with Father Paul Philibert and Dan Danielson, and numerous other articles with a variety of topics.

Father Blanchette has been ordained for forty years, and has been a psychologist for almost all of time. He is a member of the Catholic Theological Society of America, American Psychological Association, and the Maryland and District of Columbia Psychological Associations.

Our Remaining 2009 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 25th) and all Fridays of Lent, including Good Friday (April 10th). 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 or abstinence. The Lenten observance of our time 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 Saturday from 3:30pm to 4:30pm
Good Friday (April 10th) from 10:00am to 11:00am
or by appointment with a parish priest



Stewardship Report:



Revenue

March 15:	8,656.13
Faith Direct:	1,712.50
Total Offertory:	10,368.63
Last Year:	10,423.83
Poor Box:	775.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	110.83

Number of Adult Envelopes: 248; Number of Children's Envelopes: 1; Number of Faith Direct donors: 38; Number of Registered Households: 668

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. About a year ago we signed up to 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!

Box Tops for Education: Keep saving those "**Box Tops for Education**" too...we collect them for school supplies and materials! You can turn in your collected box tops to the school office.

Every Penny Counts: Donate your loose change to the "Every Penny Counts" Box which provides funding for the annual Father E. Albert Hughes Scholarship awards. We also have "home editions" in the form of small coin cans that you can take home and fill with loose change and return to the church or rectory when filled. These scholarship awards are given in the form of tuition assistance to deserving children and youth from our parish enrolled at St. Matthias School or a Catholic High School of the Archdiocese of Washington. Together our pennies, nickels, and dimes can make a difference by assisting someone in need with a Catholic education!



Invite Someone back!: This Lent, people across the Archdiocese of Washington are extending a special invitation to those who may have drifted away from their faith to come back to church, prayer and Mass. Faith is a shared experience and our family of faith feels incomplete when someone is missing! Many people have a hard time returning to church because they feel they have never been missed. Let them know they have been missed by extending to them an invitation to come back. Look for special invitation cards in the back of the church and be sure to visit the following website for details: www.maybe-its-God.org

Faith Formation

Young Adults Ministry (Bible Study Group): The group will meet this Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge. We are studying The Acts of the Apostles'. Come and join us.

Baptism Preparatory Seminar: The next seminar will be held in May since there will be no baptisms in Lent. Parents make sure that you are registered parishioners of St. Matthias before calling to make an appointment for Baptism.

RCIA/RCIC: Keep our catechumens and candidates in your prayers as they continue to prepare for the Easter sacraments. For the next two weeks we will continue with the scrutinies for the catechumens during the 9:30 am mass.

Faith Formation: Classes continue as usual until the Easter Break. Note that the Confirmation class will still hold the Parent/Candidate meeting on Monday, April 6, 2009 even though the rest of Faith Formation classes will be off that week. Candidates who have their sponsors living in the area are encouraged to bring them along to this meeting. The time will still be 6:45 pm.

Other Items of Note

Flower Bulb Sale: Think Spring! Now that winter's snows are melting away, plan your spring and summer garden and support our parish! With the help of van Bourgondien, seller of flower bulbs and perennials for more than 100 years, we are holding a spring fundraiser which will yield a profit of 50% of all sales made directly to our parish. Flyers and order forms are available in the church entryway.



2009 Annual Jubilarian Mass: The annual Jubilarian celebration of marriage to honor couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 50+ years will be held Sunday June 7, 2009, 2:00pm at the National Shrine. Archbishop Wuerl will be the celebrant. To register, please contact Tara in the rectory at 301-459-4814 or by email at tguevara@stmatthias.org. All names must be submitted by **APRIL 20TH** in order to be included.



Votive Candles: Please take note that votive candles will be available beginning on April 5, 2009 and are available to burn for special intentions of the living or in memory of the deceased. The cost is \$5 per candle, and candles are located at the Sacred Heart or Blessed Mother Statues on our parish grounds. Only 10 votive candles per shrine are offered each week. Please call Tara in the rectory at 301-459-4814 or stop in to reserve your votive intention.

Papal Visit Books Available: Relive the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the Archdiocese of Washington in April 2008, through a special anniversary edition of the book, *Pope Benedict XVI in Washington: Herald of Christ's Hope*. More than 170 full color photos on 104 pages, this keepsake volume chronicles the events leading up to the Pope's arrival, and includes a special introduction by Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl. Forty pages highlight the papal Mass at National's Park. This special volume costs only \$24.95 plus \$6 shipping/handling. An order form and more details can be found in the Catholic Standard.

Easter Items:

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



Mass Intentions for the Fourth Week of Lent

Monday, March 23: Toribio de Mogrovejo, bishop

8:30 am Alice Ballard

Tuesday, March 24:

8:30 am Pearl Aitcheson

Wednesday, March 25: Annunciation of the Lord

8:30 am Marie Therese Dai T. Kimchu

Thursday, March 26:

8:30 am Louis Stinnett

Friday, March 27: Lenten Day of Abstinence

8:30 am Patricia Nell Elbert

7:30 pm Stations of the Cross

Sat., March 28: Vigil— Fifth Sunday of Lent

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

5:00 pm Katherine Mylod

Sunday, March 29: Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 am Mary Ford

9:30 am George Johnson

11:30am Helen, Bernard & Alfred Bernstein

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

Phil Ates; Virgie Azarcon; Ann Benson; Leslie Berkey; Barbara Brink; Margaret Carr; Fidel dela Cuesta; Don and Muriel Delaney; Eleanor DeMarco; Lisa Farland; Dennis George; Cristin Green; Francis Greenfield; Leslie Hand; Joseph Harrison; Jim Hennessy; Charles Henry; Lena Jacobs; Bud Jones; Father Keene; Robyn Kirby; Laura Elaine Kiessling; Ray Krok; Nancy Maimone; Joe Makowski; Mary McGrail; Willie (Bill) Moore; Rosemarie Nardozzi; Mary Nelson; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Alice Parker; Dawn Pearson; Irma Perez; Bill Pinchback; June Provini; Rohland Reich; Joe Sico; Concepcion Soberanis; Walter Stewart; Margaret Zanin; Ryan Zawada **†For the Deceased:** Father Jerome Hall **†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.**

SCHOOL RAFFLE WINNER



**Congratulations to
Dr. Rudolf Jeffries (Winner & Seller- \$350)
of this week's winning raffle ticket!**



THE LORD'S LAUGHTER



Grandma's Age:

Little Johnny asked his grandma how old she was.
Grandma answered, "39 and holding."
Johnny thought about that for a moment and said,
"and how old would you be if you let go?"