

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 which 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 (March 1st) and Trinity Sunday (June 7th). 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, April 6

Mass at 8:30am: Cynthia & Emmanuel Amanyeiwe (lvng) Fr. Stan

Tuesday of Holy Week, April 7

Mass at 8:30am: Jean Nguyen Q. Lai Fr. Stan

Wednesday of Holy Week, April 8

Mass at 8:30am: Pepi Manlapaz (living) Fr. Jeff

Sacred Triduum

Holy Thursday—Mass of the Lord's Supper, April 9

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

Good Friday, April 10

Confessions from 10:00 to 11:00am only Fr. Jeff

♫ *Stations of the Cross at 12 Noon*

♫ *Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at 7:30pm*
Veneration of the Cross; and Holy Communion Fr. Jeff

Holy Saturday, April 11

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*
Intrn: George O. Defayette & Harry Yokum Fr. Jeff

Easter Sunday, April 12

8:00am: Family & Friends of: Fr. Stan

9:30am: Family & Friends of: Fr. Jeff

11:30am: Family & Friends of: Fr. Quitalig

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

Phil Ates; Virgie Azarcon; Ann Benson; Leslie Berkey; Barbara Brink; Margaret Carr; Sherry Cash; Fidel dela Cuesta; Don and Muriel Delaney; Eleanor DeMarco; Lisa Farland; Dennis George; Cristin Green; Leslie Hand; Joseph Harrison; Jim Hennessy; Charles Henry; Lena Jacobs; Bud Jones; Charles and Yvonne Jones; Father Keene; Robyn Kirby; Laura Elaine Kiessling; Ray Krok; Harry Len; Nancy Maimone; Joe Makowski; Mary McGrail; Willie (Bill) Moore; Rosemarie Nardozi; 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



Stewardship Report:

Revenue



March 29:	7,897.94
Faith Direct:	1,712.50
Total Offertory:	9,610.44
Last Year:	10,604.11
Poor Box:	254.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	48.98

Number of Adult Envelopes: 250
Number of Children's Envelopes: 13
Number of Faith Direct donors: 38
Number of Registered Households: 668

Building and Maintenance Fund: Our second collection this weekend is for our regular **Building Fund**. This monthly collection enables us to make continuing repairs, upkeep and improvements to our parish and school buildings as well as our parish grounds. May we suggest a minimum of \$20 per household. As always, we thank you for your continuing generosity!

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 Ziploc 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.

Rectory Office Hours for Holy Week/Easter:

Please note that the School will be CLOSED for Easter beginning Holy Thursday, April 9th and re-open on Monday, April 20th. The Rectory will close at noon on Holy Thursday, April 9th and re-open at 8am on Tuesday, April 14th 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.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Faith Formation

Important Information for Confirmation Candidates: Note that classes will be held for **Confirmation Candidates and Parents only** on Monday, April 6, 2009 at the usual time, 6:45pm. All other grade levels will be off for the Easter Break. This meeting is mandatory for Confirmation candidates, please mark your calendar, as no make-up meeting will be offered before our last session in May. Make sure to complete your Service Hours and hand in the forms as soon as you can. Remember the parish is praying for you! Keep up the good work!

Faith Formation: All grade levels except for Confirmation will take a two-week Easter Break. We will resume classes on Monday, April 20th.

First Communion: The retreat is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 9:30am to 12 noon. There is plenty of time to make alternate arrangements for any other events. If you and your child are absent from this retreat that will be an indication that you have made a decision to postpone the celebration of this sacrament to next year. Please make sure to drop off the permission slips and photo forms by the due date. It gets more costly when photos and DVDs are ordered after the event. Remember the most important event of that day is encountering Jesus in a very special way-by receiving him Body and Soul.

Young Adult Ministry: Do you know of any parishioners who are sick and, therefore, homebound? Members of the Young Adults Ministry would like to be of assistance to any such parishioner. Please call the Faith Formation Office (x205) for more information or simply to give us some information to assist you. The assistance will be in the form of home visitation and/or running errands. Of course, there will be time for prayer, the most effective balm for the sick.

RCIA: We are almost there! Please continue to pray for those preparing to be fully initiated into the Catholic Faith during the Easter vigil. They have come a long way and continue to be in need of our prayers during these last few weeks. Join us during the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 11th at 8:00 pm for one of the most beautiful liturgies of the Church year.

Youth Group

Showcase of Talent Rehearsals Begin: Rehearsals will be held as follows:

- **Singing Acts**– 1st, 3rd and 4th **Fridays** of the month
- **All Other Performing Acts:** 1st, 3rd and 4th **Wednesday** of the month

Other Items of Note

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.



Flower Bulb Sale: Our second week of sales has yielded 19 orders totaling \$840.00, one-half of which is income for the parish. Thanks to those who have sent in their orders early. Our share of the proceeds to date is \$675.00, including a donation of \$5.00, and our goal for this first effort is \$3,000. Ordering information is located in the back of church, and all orders must be received by Monday, April 6, 2009. Please call the parish office if you have any questions. Thank you for your continuing generosity!



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.

SCHOOL RAFFLE WINNER



Congratulations to
Carmen Kosko (winner of \$300)
And Hector Perez (seller, winning \$50)
of this week's winning raffle ticket!

Votive Candles: Please take note that votive candles will be available beginning on April 5th and are available to burn for the 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*. With more than 170 full color photos, 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 Nationals' 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.

Ladies of Charity: Dear Parishioners: During this special time of Holy Week, not only would we like to extend to each of you the “Blessings and Grace of Easter”, but also a special **“thank you”** to all those who participate in our functions throughout the year (Missals, cards, candles, Spring and Fall Festivals, Thanksgiving & Christmas food drives, etc). A special thank you for replenishing our food pantry--it is sincerely appreciated and needed. We would also like to thank Saint Matthias School and Boy Scouts for their food drives which helped replenish the pantry. **Your deeds do not go unnoticed and we are very grateful for your support!!**

Reception: The Ladies of Charity will be hosting a reception on Sunday, April 19th after the 9:30AM Mass for Jared Suire, the seminarian serving here at St. Matthias. He is being ordained a Deacon on Saturday and will be giving his first homily at the 9:30AM Mass, his first Mass as a Deacon. His family will be here at this time. We are asking the various organizations and members of the parish to provide items for this reception. The various items needed are: juice, donuts, pastries, cookies, fruit and breads. These items may be placed on the bench outside the school library on Saturday evening, April 18th at the 5:00PM Mass or brought to Friendship Hall after 9:00AM on Sunday April 19th. Thanks so much for your help.

Mother Seton Ladies Auxiliary: is sponsoring a Polish dinner and polka dance on Saturday, April 25, 2009 in St Matthias' Friendship Hall from 6pm to 10pm. Food by Laurie, music by Joe Shelko. Tickets are \$25.00 each, advance reservations only. Call Phyllis Szuka at 301-577-3916, Ann Degraff at 301-474-7869 or Kay Kaderabek at 301-577-1423.

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.



THE LORD'S LAUGHTER



On Palm Sunday, all the children were gathered around the pastor for the children's sermon. The pastor noticed that one little girl was wearing a particularly pretty dress. He leaned over and said, “That is a pretty dress, Kate. Is it your Easter dress?” The little girl answered into the pastor's clip-on mike, “Yes, and my Mom says it's a (bleep) to iron.”