

§ *A Message & Messenger
Of Hope & Life >*



Today after all of our Masses, specially marked grocery bags will be distributed as a reminder to make an act of communion with our fellow Catholics throughout the Archdiocese as we prepare to welcome our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI to the United States and specifically to the Archdiocese of Washington. *“Hunger for Hope”* is our collaborative campaign to collect non-perishable food items from every Catholic church and school within our great Archdiocese in order to feed the hungry of the metropolitan Washington, DC area for the next several months. This corporal work of mercy will serve as one of our unified gifts to Pope Benedict on the occasion of his visitation, his birthday, and his anniversary of election to be the successor of Saint Peter three years ago. Pope Benedict brings to us a message of hope in the power of Christ to conquer and vanquish the shadows of sin, poverty, war, ignorance, intolerance, and injustice in all its forms throughout the world.

The gospel of Saint Luke this weekend is a recounting of a journey made by two disciples after the death of Jesus. They were traveling to a town called Emmaus and were discouraged, disheartened, and above all, their hope in Christ as the Messiah was shattered by his death. Then they encounter another man who captivates them and stirs their faith to new depths or as the scriptures describe it...“...were not our hearts burning.” When this man and fellow traveler stays with them for the evening meal, they suddenly recognize Him in the breaking of the bread. The very Eucharist that Christ had established as the living memorial of His passion, death, and resurrection was the moment of true recognition.

On April 17th many of us will gather with our Holy Father for a message of hope from him, the successor of the Apostle, Peter. He will preside at a Mass at the new Nationals Stadium, and we pray that in this great gathering of faith we will come to recognize Christ once again in the breaking of bread...the Sacrament of His Holy Body and Blood. The food that we are asked to return in the specially marked grocery bags next weekend will assuage the genuine need of many impoverished people. If we want Christ to be recognized and adored in the Eucharist, then we must also tend to the basic needs of His human family...one of those basic needs is hunger. We want all people to hunger for hope and to believe in the possibility of a world made new by Christ who is the giver of hope. Let us honor the messenger of Christ on earth, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, with our resounding belief and hope that we can eliminate physical hunger from the face of the earth if we only share a small portion of the blessings we have everyday on our home tables. Fill up those bags and remember to bring them back next weekend or drop them by the rectory or school offices during regular business hours. God bless your efforts!



Stewardship Report:



Revenue

March 30th :	7,673.17
Faith Direct:	1,100.00
Total Offertory:	8,773.17
Last Year:	13,387.25
Poor Box:	273.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	31.81
Easter Contributions To Date:	15,472.00
Last Year:	16,865.75
Easter Flowers:	3,759.00

Number of Adult Envelopes: 249
 Number of Children’s Envelopes: 23
 Number of Faith Direct donors: 34
 Number of Registered Households: 656

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 \$10 per household. As always, we thank you for your continuing generosity!

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.

Please Take Note:

Due to the participation of our parish priests at the Papal Mass on the morning of **April 17th**, there is **NO MORNING MASS**

Votive Lights

The votive lights burning from
Sunday, April 6th through Saturday, April 12th:
 At the *Shrine of the Sacred Heart*: **For the Intentions of:** the Puglisi Family; Henry Sylak and **For the Happy Repose of:** Pasquale Ciccone and Father Augustine Kizito Abizi.
 At the *Shrine of the Madonna and Child*: **For the Intentions of:** Phil and Rosemary Ferrara; Josh & Leo Guevara; Rose Dickerson and **For the Happy Repose of:** Mike & Stella Lapitsky

St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

The Raffle Drawing for Monday, March 31st
Kimi McKeown of Upper Marlboro, MD **won \$350**
 She was both the winner AND the seller!

Faith Formation:

Faith Formation Attendance: Attendance was notably poor last week due to the Maryland State Exams. We have just about 6 more weeks to the end of this academic year's classes so, parents, please make it a point to bring your children for classes and be on time.

Confirmation Parent Meeting: We will have our usual Parent/Candidate meeting tomorrow, April 7 at 6:45 p.m. We will go through the rites for Confirmation and have an opportunity to answer any pertinent questions you may have. Measurements for the rental of robes will be taken at this meeting.

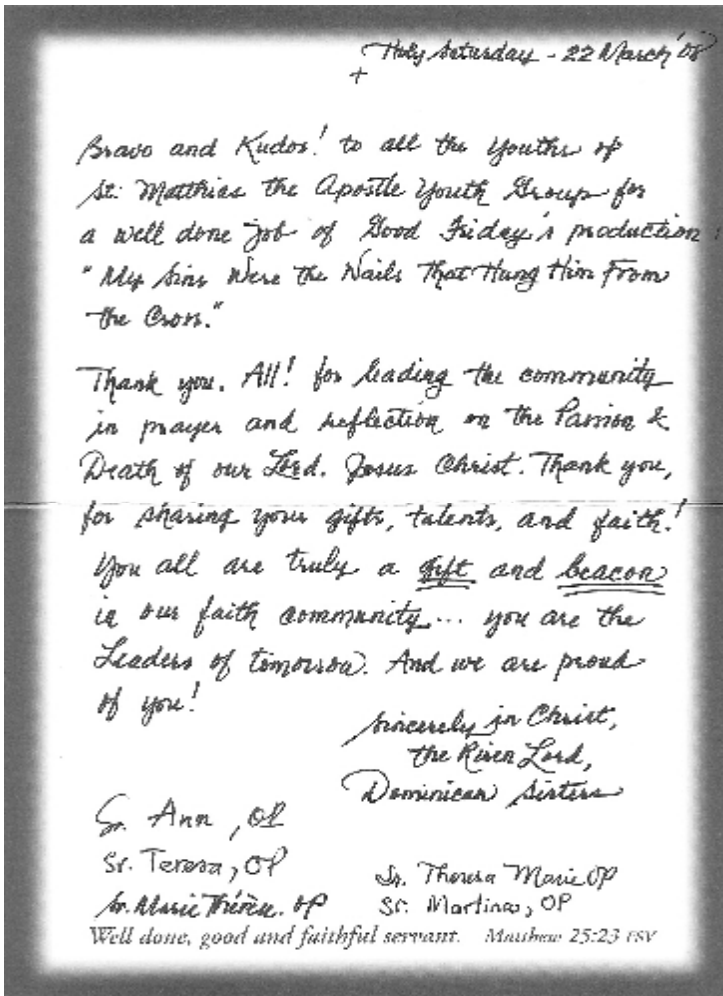
The retreat is scheduled for Saturday, April 19 here at St. Matthias. Remember, the retreat is mandatory. Fr. Jeff and I are often placed in an awkward situation when obvious responsibilities are not met and we are made to choose between a rock and a hard place.

First Communion: The retreat for the First Communicants will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 12noon. Please mark your calendars this is a mandatory retreat.

Sacramental Fees: All sacramental fees are due before the celebration of the sacrament. Please make sure to pay your fees as soon as possible.

**Congratulations to Our Youth Group
on Their Presentation:**

**"My Sins Were the Nails That Hung Him
From The Cross":**



**Mass Intentions for the
Third Week of Easter**

Monday, April 7

8:30 am Virginia Craig

Tuesday, April 8

8:30 am Jose Manlapaz III (Living)

Wednesday, April 9

8:30 am Sue Grove (Living- Birthday)

Thursday, April 10

8:30 am Betty Barry

Friday, April 11

8:30 am Virginia Craig

Saturday, April 12-Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Easter

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions Fr. Bob

5:00 pm Anthony & Stephanie Bello Fr. Bob

Sunday, April 13 Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am Virginia Craig Fr. Bob

9:30 am Davida Okyere-Fosu (Living- bday) Fr. Jeff

11:30am Virginia Craig Fr. Gonzalo

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

Pearl Aitcheson; Lind Bryans; Fidel dela Cuesta; Lisa Cuthbert; Mary Ennis; Lisa Farland; Ferris (Bo) George; Joseph Harrison; Robert Hoke; Charles Jones; Katie Kennedy; Robyn Kirby; Nancy Maimone; Bob Martin; Carol McDonagh; Willie Moore; Larry Murphy; Peter O'Neill; Thomas Opalsik; Charles Shryock; Ryan Zawada †**For Our Military Serving in Afghanistan or Iraq:**

Spc. Michael J. Chiddo; Brian A. Densmore; Ryan A. Morgan †**For**

Our Deceased: Father Augustine Kizito Abizi; Suzanne Ruth May;

Christopher Mark Gregory † 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.

Papal Mass News Items:

Ticket Raffle: The Mass ticket selections have been made, but due to the early publication of this bulletin, recipients had yet to be notified. A complete list of ticket recipients will be published in next week's bulletin.

Hunger to Hope Archdiocesan Food Drive: As a visible sign of our love of Christ and fellow man, and our joy that Pope Benedict will be in our presence this April, an archdiocesan-wide food drive, **HUNGER TO HOPE**, will be held April 12-13 to fill the food banks in the Washington Metropolitan area. Our own Ladies of Charity will be distributing grocery bags after all Masses this week for you to fill and return for this event. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the needy!

Papal Mass Website: The Archdiocese has set up a website with information regarding the Papal Mass and all the information you need regarding the Pope's visit to our area in the next few weeks. Information on parking, transportation and pre Mass activities will be posted. Please go to www.adw.org/papalvisit for the latest news and information. They are constantly updating the site with information so be sure to check often.