

*The Clergy, Staff & Parishioners of
St. Matthias the Apostle Welcome
His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to
the United States and to our
Washington Archdiocese!*



Š We Are His Flock >

We say so glibly that every Sunday is a kind of Easter, and it is true, but this Easter season is still special for us. The people ask Peter what they are to do after he reminds them that they have crucified the Christ God has made, and he tells them to repent and be baptized. Then he tells them that they have been called to suffer because Jesus also suffered for them. By his wounds we have been healed. Even though we have gone astray like sheep, we have now returned to the shepherd, the guardian of our souls.

This brings us to the image this Sunday offers us: Jesus the Good Shepherd. If we know anything about shepherd and their sheep, we know that a special bond exists between the sheep and the shepherd. The sheep recognize his— or her— voice and the shepherd often calls them by name. That is what the apostle John tells us in speaking of Jesus as the shepherd. He calls us by our real name and we recognize his voice. That establishes a real intimacy if we let it.

What we need to remember about our relationship with our Good Shepherd is that our identity with Jesus is as his flock and not as shepherds. Even more, we, as a flock, need to listen to Jesus. Listening to Jesus is the source of our unity, and our unity as a flock is necessary. We model our unity in the flock on Jesus' relationship with God. They are in union with each other and with the Holy Spirit.

If you listened carefully to the entire gospel reading today, you will know that there is another image for Jesus that he himself said., "I am the gate...Whoever enters through me will be saved." In other words, Jesus is our point of access to God. We need him as our shepherd, but even more we need him as our gate, our way to God. This is for us as individuals, of course; but remember that we also are a flock. We are responsible for each other too. It is the entire flock that Jesus knows and calls by name. We also need to help the rest of the flock of Jesus the Good Shepherd to make it through the gate. How are we going to do that the rest of this day and the whole of this next week? Think about it and act on it!



Stewardship Report:



Revenue

April 6th :	10,022.80
Faith Direct:	1,100.00
Total Offertory:	11,122.80
Last Year:	13,387.25
Poor Box:	175.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	27.11
Easter Contributions To Date:	16,169.00
Last Year:	16,865.75
Easter Flowers:	3,759.00

Number of Adult Envelopes: 277
Number of Children's Envelopes: 11
Number of Faith Direct donors: 34
Number of Registered Households: 656

Hunger to Hope: Please be sure to drop off your specially marked grocery bags with your nonperishable food contributions after Mass this weekend for our Archdiocesan food drive. Your generous contribution of food will not only help replenish our own St. Matthias food pantry, but it will help to stock food pantries throughout the metropolitan area which serve hundreds of needy persons and families. Thank you and God Bless You for caring for the needy of community!

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

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 13th** through **Saturday, April 19th:**

At the Shrine of the Sacred Heart: **For the Special Intentions of:** Rosemary & Phil Ferrara the and **For the Happy Repose of:** Pasquale Ciccone; Ria I bald & Hans I bald

At the Shrine of the Madonna and Child: **For the Special Intentions of:** Rose Dickerson; Patty & Jessica Shaffer and **For the Happy Repose of:** Brian C. Shaffer; Ria I bald & Hans I bald.

St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

The Raffle Drawing for Monday, March 31st
Dale T. Bilo of Lanham, MD **won \$300**
Melissa Bilo (Seller) of Lanham, MD **won \$50**

Faith Formation:

Drop Off and Pick Up: Children are being dropped off later and later as the weeks go by. Parents, please remember that when children are late, the whole class is adversely affected and that is not fair to either the catechists or the students. Let us manage our time well and get our children here on time just you would for sporting activities.

First Communion Retreat: The date is still Saturday, April 26th from 9:30 am till 12 noon. At least one parent must be present for this retreat. Remember to hand in the permission slips and photo order forms.

Sacramental Fees: We appreciate the effort most of you have made in paying the sacramental fees. There are a few still outstanding. Please make sure to pay the appropriate fees if you have not already done so. The fees are \$50.00 for Confirmation and \$35.00 for First Communion. These fees are already heavily subsidized; therefore any delinquencies will weigh heavily on the funding of our programs.

Baptism: Please read the Bulletin carefully. Families must be registered for at least six months before any sacraments including Baptism may be administered. Look at it from another angle. Six months will give you enough time to decide if you really want to be a part of this parish; and, it will also show us your commitment to this parish which is a key component within any community.

Other Items of Note:

Jubilarian Mass: On Sunday June 8, 2008 at 2:00pm, Archbishop Donald Wuerl will celebrate the annual Jubilarian Mass honoring married couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 50+ years of marriage at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Personalized scrolls signed by Archbishop Wuerl will be distributed to the couples being honored. Please contact Tara in the Rectory to sign up for this special Mass. You can reach her by phone at 301-459-4814 (x 201) or by email at tguevara@stmatthias.org.



Mass Intentions for the Fourth Week of Easter

Monday, April 14

8:30 am Virginia Craig

Tuesday, April 15

8:30 am Gina Pezzuti

Wednesday, April 16

8:30 am Carolina P. Malapaz

Thursday, April 17

NO MORNING MASS: PAPAL MASS IN DC

Friday, April 18

8:30 am Virginia Craig

Saturday, April 19—Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Easter

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions Fr. Jeff

5:00 pm Pat Makowski (Living) Fr. Jeff

Sunday, April 20 Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am Sylvester Ugoh (Living— birthday) Fr. Jeff

9:30 am Harmel Collins Fr. Bob

11:30am Helen Krouse Fr. Bob

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

Pearl Aitcheson; Linda 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 Opalski; 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: Brian C. Shaffer

† 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 following individuals or families have received tickets to the Papal Mass to date and can pick them up after Masses this weekend: Aitcheson, Brace, Carlo, Craig, Downey, Farland, Faust, George, Givens, Gordon, Ibebuchi, Ikpi, Jamolin, Juanitez, Kerns, King, Okolo, Onuaka, Onuoha, Pierce, Pouliot, Prout, Richardson, Rubenstahl, Self, Snow, Uba, Vitale, Woldeyohannes, Worthington. If you have any questions, please contact the rectory. Ticket holders will find information regarding the Mass, transportation and commemorative items inside their ticket envelopes as well as website resources for further details and information. All persons on this list should have been notified by phone that they were receiving tickets. If you are not on this list, there is the possibility of additional tickets becoming available. Any additional recipients will be notified if tickets become available!

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 week. Information on the schedule of activities and other opportunities to see the Pope can be found on this website. 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.

The LORD is my
and my LIGHT
SALVATION

PSALM 27:1

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL 2008

***Your Proud Pastor Congratulates
His Flock on Exceeding
the Goal Set For Us
For the 2008 Archbishop's Appeal!***

- Our Appeal Goal: \$58,298.40
- Current Pledge Amount: \$ 58,413.00
- % of Goal Pledged: 100.20%
- We are the first parish in our Deanery to exceed our pledge goal!