



The Gift of Prayer expressed through VOTIVE LIGHTS

It has long been a custom to light a votive candle when visiting a church, shrine, or a place of special veneration. Centuries ago, pilgrims had in many instances traveled long and treacherous journeys lasting weeks or months to reach their destination. They would spend only a few days and then have to turn back toward home to resume their responsibilities with work and family. Pilgrims wanted their prayers to remain in the church or at the shrine far longer than they were able to stay. The more you offered

prayers and supplications to God for those you loved and for those who asked you to remember them at this holy site, then hopefully, God would take pity on your prayer and answer favorably (at least your understanding of favorably!). The Votive Candle became a visible sign of the prayer of the pilgrim soul's intention remaining in the church days longer than he or she could stay. As the candle flickered it repeated the prayer for the pilgrim over and over until extinguished. Candles can burn for a day, three days, or some up to 14 days.

Each year, from early April through late November (weather permitting) we offer parishioners an opportunity to carry on this age old practice. There are **EIGHT VOTIVE CANDLES** at both the outdoor *Sacred Heart Shrine* and *Our Blessed Mother's Shrine*. A donation of \$5.00 is requested for each candle that is burnt at one of the shrines. Each votive light *burns for 7 days*. Votive lights, like Mass Intentions, must be scheduled through the rectory business office. We encourage you to think ahead and plan on booking a particular date of significance to you...prayers offered can be for the living, for family members or friends having a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or other special event. Prayers offered for our deceased relatives and friends make their memory live on in our midst to remind us of our communion with the saints in heaven. We pray for them; they pray for us! Special cards are available to send to a living person whose candle will burn for a special intention and cards are available to send to a grieving next of kin for a deceased person. Reserve your votive light today and keep your prayer going all week in our church and in our parish shrines.



Stewardship Report:

Revenue



April 19 th :	6,909.12
Faith Direct	1,712.50
Total Offertory	8,621.62
Last Year:	8,795.25
Poor Box:	187.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	115.83
Easter Flowers to Date:	3,047.00
Easter Offerings to Date:	16,005.00
Easter Offerings Last Year:	16,189.00

Number of Adult Envelopes: 236
Number of Children's Envelopes: 14
Number of Faith Direct donors: 38
Number of Registered Households: 668

- **Catholic Home Missions:** Our **second** collection **this** weekend is for the **Catholic Home Missions**. There are many places in America—Appalachia, the Deep South, the Southwest, and the Rocky Mountain states—where the Catholic Church struggles just to keep parishes open and to educate children in the faith. Some dioceses are terribly short of priests, sisters and the money needed to run parishes. Once again, parishioners across the United States will have the opportunity to help their fellow Catholics in rural America.
- **Building Maintenance:** Our **second** collection **next** weekend is for our regular **Building and Maintenance Fund**. This monthly collection enables us to make continuing repairs, upkeep, improvements to our parish and school buildings as well as our parish grounds. May we suggest a minimum contribution of \$20 per household. As always we thank you for your continuing generosity.
- **Our Counters need your help:** You can make our volunteer counters very happy if you would avoid "scotch-taping" or "stapling" the envelopes shut, as well as not folding the bills multiple times when placing in the collection basket.
- **Scripture on Stewardship:** The disciples in today's Gospel came to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread. When we share what we have with those who are in need, we too, will discover Jesus in our midst.

Outdoor Votive Light Offerings:



The votive lights burning from
Sunday, April 26th through Saturday, May 2nd:



Shrine of the Sacred Heart

For the Special Intentions of:

Don Falls, and for Greg George on the occasion of his birthday

For the Happy Repose of:

Mr. & Mrs. Len Boberick

Shrine of the Madonna & Child

For the Special Intentions of:

Becca & Kyle Falls and for Kitty Hamby and Dominic DeMaio on the occasion of their birthdays

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 as you would for sporting activities.

Confirmation Retreat: The date is still Saturday, May 2nd from 9:30am to 3:00pm in Friendship Hall. Please make sure to pay the sacramental fee on time since the program is already heavily subsidized.

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



The Flower Bulb Fundraiser order has been submitted, and delivery is anticipated around May 1st. We will publish pick-up information in next week's bulletin, and we would appreciate hearing from you about how your garden grows and whether this is a fundraiser you would be willing to support in the future. The profit to the parish is **\$2,140.00**, which is very satisfactory for a first time, short-term effort. Thanks to everyone who supported us so generously!

Father E. Albert Hughes Scholarship: Applications for this scholarship are available in the Rectory or School offices. The application deadline is May 15th.

Golf Tournament: The 8th Annual St. Matthias Golf Tournament will be held on May 15th at the Glenn Dale Golf Club. Please contact Cornelia Sykes by e-mail: golfinfo.stmatthias.org or by phone at 301-429-8813.

Living Rosary: The Living Rosary will be held on Tuesday, May 12th at 7:30 PM in Church of St. Matthias Apostle. The social reception following the Living Rosary will be held in the School Library. Please make a note of this and invite your family, friends to attend.

Saint Matthias School Reunion: Did you go to St. Matthias Apostle School in the 1980s? Want to join us for a reunion of your classmates and teachers? Please join us on Saturday June 27th from 4pm-9pm in Friendship Hall for a school reunion. Contact Stacey for information and cost @ 301-502-2741 or StacCleve@aol.com.

SCHOOL RAFFLE WINNER

Congratulations to
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Marshall, Jr. (winner of 350)
as winner AND seller of this week's ticket!



Out of the Mouths of God's Kids

A three-year-old opened the birthday gift from his Grandmother and discovered a water pistol...he squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink. His Mother was not so pleased, turned to the Grandmother and said, "I'm surprised at you. Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?" The Grandmother smiled and then replied..."I remember."



Mass Intentions for the Third Week of Easter

Monday, April 27:

8:30 am Mary Genevieve Barnard

Tuesday, April 28: Peter Chanel, priest, martyr—Louis Mary de Montfort, priest

8:30 am Robert Troup (Living)

Wednesday, April 29: Catherine of Siena, virgin & doctor

8:30 am Concepcion Soberanis

Thursday April 30: Pius V, pope

8:30 am Agnes Nguyen T. Uyen

Friday, May 1: Joseph the Worker

8:30 am Margaret Donohue

Saturday, May 2: Vigil – Fourth Sunday of Easter

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

5:00 pm Margaret Free

Sunday, May 3: Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am Ugoh Family (Living)

9:30 am Severino Santos

11:30am Anna Kosloski

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

Charles Adegbesan; Virgie Azarcon; Ann Benson; Leslie Berkey; Barbara Brink; Margaret Carr; Sherry Cash; Fidel dela Cuesta; Eleanor DeMarco; Father Jim Downs; Lisa Farland; Adeola Fayoni; Dennis George; Leslie Hand; Joseph Harrison; Jim Hennessy; Charles Henry; Lena Jacobs; Bud Jones; Charles & Yvonne Jones; Robyn Kirby; Laura Elaine Kiessling; Ray Krok; David Loughman; Nancy Maimone; Joe Makowski; Mary McGrail; Willie (Bill) Moore; Rosemarie Nardozzi; Mary Nelson; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Alice Parker; Dawn Pearson; Irma Perez; Joseph Pezzuti; Bill Pinchback; Robert Rau; Rohland Reich; Joe Sico; Margaret Tolzman; Margaret Zanin **†For the Deceased:** David Kellerman; Henry Len **†Names will be placed on our prayer list for three weeks. To add a name or to request continuing prayers, contact Carmen Kosko by email at ckosko@stmatthias.org or by phone at 301-459-4814.**

Dear St. Matthias Community,

I am grateful for the hospitality and generous support of this parish family! St. Matthias was well represented at my ordination, particularly the RCIA members. Serving as a deacon for the first time on Sunday morning was a blessing, and I know many parishioners spent hours preparing the church, the liturgy, and the reception in Friendship Hall, and my parents and guests were warmly welcomed.

I want to thank Hector Perez for helping with church setup and photography, Regina Loffredo and the choir, my friend, Mel Ayala who was the MC for the liturgy, and the Ladies of Charity for the enjoyable reception. Different groups and parishioners gave me ritual books which I will use for many years as I preside at marriages, baptisms, funerals, and Masses. The gift of a stole and altar cloths will always be a reminder to me to hold this community in my prayers. I thank you all and most especially Father Jeff for his graciousness in coordinating this liturgy and reception in my honor.

Sincerely,
Deacon Jared G. Suire
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