

§ Reflection >

The fifty days of the Easter season come to an end with this feast of Pentecost. For fifty days we have celebrated, singing Hallelujahs, sprinkling Holy Water to remember our baptism, and lighting the Easter candle and displaying it prominently in sanctuary. Our liturgies have been full.

Now the Easter season draws to a close, but not before we are filled once again. Pentecost is primarily a feast celebrating the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit is at the heart of our transformation through baptism, where we receive the Spirit. Pentecost is a celebration of God indwelling the church. Jesus ascends, the sign of the end of his earthly ministry, and then the disciples experience Pentecost, the anointing of the Holy Spirit. They go forth with boldness to proclaim the Good News of Jesus' resurrection and the fullness of Emmanuel, God With Us.

Consider the language from this week's reading in Acts. First a noise comes like a strong driving wind "and it filled the entire house in which we were." There is a tornado inside this house. Things are turned upside down by the arrival of the Holy Spirit, not surrounding the house or buffeting it from the outside, but filling it from within. It is similar to the way God fills the tabernacle when the Israelites are in the wilderness. He descends on it as a cloud of fire, and fills it with a glow that lets the Israelites know that God is truly with them. In the same way fire and wind come into the house on Pentecost, and God is again powerfully present.

The flames part and come to rest on the disciples, and we hear "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." The house is filled with wind and fire, and the disciples themselves are filled with the Holy Spirit, who prompts them to speak. This is often the role of the Spirit in the biblical accounts. The Spirit speaks through the prophets, and in the gospels Jesus tells the disciples that the Holy Spirit will speak through them and give true testimony. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be moved to speech, to proclaiming God's presence in our lives and God's message to our world.

We are filled, and in this, the plan of salvation is fulfilled. Pentecost also involves the sending out of the disciples to be witnesses and to testify to all nations. Even though the disciples have been fearful and in mourning, they go out and speak to the crowds once God fills them with the Spirit. In the same way we, who have been filled with the Easter joy are sent out today to witness with our lives. God lives with us and in us. Together we are the Body of Christ. We are commissioned to be lights of the world.

Throughout this day and in the weeks ahead, let us not lose our grasp on our Easter joy, our sense of God's presence with us. I invite you to simply pray quietly to yourself the words, "Come, Holy Spirit" throughout the day. At any task and especially at times of stress and worry, or loneliness, or fear, cultivate the habit of calling on God as the disciples did. Increase your awareness of what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to live with the understanding that God is truly with us. Let us pray to live with the boldness given to the disciples on Pentecost, knowing that the Spirit is ours.



Stewardship Report:



Revenue

May 4th :	9,965.71
Faith Direct:	1,296.25
Total Offertory:	11,261.96
Last Year:	11,738.38
Poor Box:	116.15
Every Penny Counts Box:	81.11

Number of Adult Envelopes: 283
Number of Children's Envelopes: 9
Number of Faith Direct donors: 34
Number of Registered Households: 623

Expenses

Rectory a/c repair: (down payment)	4,442.50
Washington Gas:	4,701.87
WSSC (water):	1,790.80
BG&E (electric):	10,616.97
Church Supplies:	837.11



Blessing Prayer for Mothers

Dear Lord and Creator, bless now with Your love and protection all Mothers, that they may treasure the lives and spiritual well-being of their children. Bless my own Mother, she who gave me the great gift of life, that I may continue to be a loving and grateful child. Bless all those who had a mother's influence in my life. Bless all those close to me who are mothers, and bless all those carrying life within them at this moment. Amen

Paul Murphy



Votive Lights

The votive lights burning from
Sunday, May 11th through
Saturday, May 18th:

At the *Shrine of the Sacred Heart*: **For the Special Intentions of:** Raymond Pouliot (birthday) & Roger Guevara (birthday) and **For the Happy Repose of:** Reverend Joseph Howarth & Scott McInroy

At the *Shrine of the Madonna and Child*: **For the Special Intentions of:** Dennis George (birthday) and in thanksgiving.

St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

The Raffle Drawing for
Monday, May 5th:

Wanda Ramos of
Bowie, MD won \$350
She is the winner AND the seller!

Other Items of Note:

Find Support and Understanding As You Grieve: For those who have experienced significant losses in their lives, St. Matthias Parish offers an opportunity to obtain grief support. Sessions are held at 9AM each Saturday in the school library. For more information please contact - Miriam Jacik MSN, MSPsy at (301) 345-6054.

Run for Vocations: Runners and walkers of all experience levels are invited to join in the FUN~FAITH~FITNESS during the upcoming Marine Corps Marathon, Half Marathon and 10K held on the last Sunday of October. It's a unique opportunity to meet others, get in great shape, support our Church and accomplish an amazing goal! Team events are planned starting in April and include: optional group workouts, casual breakfast and dinner meetings, Mass and a team celebration. Information is available in the pamphlet racks or by contacting **Carol Flannery** at flanneryc@adw.org or calling **301-583-4584**.

Camp St. Charles: Drop in during the Open House to see how your children can experience two fun-filled weeks at Camp St. Charles for a reasonable price and see how close we are. For 56 years, thousands of children have been making friends, learning to work together and developing an appreciation for creation while camping out, horseback riding, challenge courses, archery, arts and interactions with animals! Located in beautiful Southern Maryland, Camp St. Charles is fully accredited with American Camp Association, certified by the State of Maryland and run by the Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers and Lay Salvatorians. For more information or directions, go to www.campstcharles.com or call 301-934-8799.

Faith Formation:

Congratulations to our 2nd graders who received their First Communion yesterday; and also to our 8th graders who were confirmed by Bishop Holley yesterday. Special thanks to the teachers, Ms. Becky Horning, Mrs. Sandy Midgley, Mr. Emmanuel Amanyeiwe and the Confirmation Retreat team Mrs. Valerie Richardson, Mr. Emmanuel Amanyeiwe, Dr. Marilyn Lovett and Mrs. Sandy Midgley for once again dedicating themselves to the spiritual formation of our young parishioners. May you be abundantly blessed as you play this major role in evangelizing the youth of our parish.

Parents, thank you for your tireless efforts in juggling your various schedules to meet with our requirements. As we have discussed several times, this is just another step in the faith formation of your children and our hope is that you will be the greatest role models for them. Rest assured that God will certainly bless your efforts.

3rd -7th Grade First Communion: This is a reminder to all those in 3rd - 7th grade who for whatever reasons have not as yet received their First Communion. If you have not already gotten in touch with me, please do so as soon as possible. A date and time will be set in June to celebrate this sacrament.

End of Year Faith Formation Matters: Our last session will be held on Monday, May 19, 2008. All 2nd and 8th graders are still required to participate in classes till the last day. We will have our end of year celebration on the last day.

Registration for next year will be mailed home. Make sure to fill out the forms and return them to the office with the fees no later than June 30th. When we order our books early we cut down on cost that is why a late fee is charged for late registration. Any registration forms received after June 30 will incur a late fee of \$25.00 with no exceptions. Do not hesitate to call Dorothy Aggrey at 301-459-4814 x 205 should you have any questions.



Mass Intentions for the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, May 12: Nereus & Achilleus, martyrs

8:30 am All Mothers Living & Deceased

Tuesday, May 13: Our Lady of Fatima

8:30 am All Mothers Living & Deceased

Wednesday, May 14: Matthias, apostle

8:30 am All Mothers Living & Deceased

Thursday, May 15: Isidore

8:30 am All Mothers Living & Deceased

Friday, May 16

8:30 am All Mothers Living & Deceased

Saturday, May 17-Vigil: Most Holy Trinity

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

5:00 pm All Mothers Living & Deceased Fr. Stan

Sunday, May 18: Most Holy Trinity

8:00 am All Mothers Living & Deceased Fr. Bob

9:30 am All Mothers Living & Deceased Fr. Bob

11:30am All Mothers Living & Deceased Fr. Martins

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

Pearl Aitcheson; Virgie Azarcon; Barbara Brink; Audrey Brown; Linda Bryans; Dan Comeaux; Fidel dela Cuesta; Lisa Cuthbert; Mary Ennis; Lisa Farland; Karen Fisher; Ferris (Bo) George; Joseph Harrison; Robert Hoke; Charles Jones; Katie Kennedy; Robyn Kirby; Nancy Maimone; Bob Martin; Carol McDonagh; Willie Moore; Larry Murphy; Michael & Rosemarie Nardozi; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Thomas Opalski; Joseph Otero; 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:** Msgr. Peter Long **†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.**

Youth Group:

Good Bye & Good Luck: THANK-YOU & We'll Miss You to the Owolabi Family: Yetty, Temi, Enni and BJ. Two years ago you came to St. Matthias Parish and you immersed yourselves immediately into the process! You became Youth Group Members, Song leaders, Choir Members, Sacred Motions Ministers, Ushers, Greeters, and assisted with Faith Formation. And if that was not enough you did anything else that might have been needed to build the Kingdom of God! For this we say thanks. Canada may seem a long way away but in our hearts you will always be. May God bless you and your family always. Fondly, Mrs. Moore and the Youth Group Staff.

Are You A St. Matthias Teen? Have we met you in youth group? If not, JOIN US! Our youth group meets every Friday evening in Friendship Hall for fun, faith and fellowship. We are always looking for new faces to join us! If you would like more information on this great group of teens and our meetings, please contact Donna Stewart Moore in the rectory at extension 204.