

## § Reflection >

The doctrine of the Trinity has caused many problems throughout church history. It has left wide open the door to misunderstanding the nature of God. We are monotheist as we believe in one God. But if that God has a son, then there are two. And if that son was born of the father, there was a time when the son was not, so he must be lesser God than the father. To avoid misunderstanding, St. Augustine and the early councils fashioned the Nicene Creed, which clearly outlines our belief in one God in three persons- Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We understand that Jesus was present from the beginning, as we read in John's gospel: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." Christians believe that Jesus is God, our Savior, as we believe and worship God also as the Creator. God is revealed to us in the Old Testament as Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Messiah completes the work of salvation by coming to earth, dwelling among us, and bearing our sins in his death and resurrection.

But what about the Holy Spirit? In Pentecost, we celebrated the feast of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. If Jesus came second, then the Holy Spirit came even later, after Jesus had ascended. Jesus says repeatedly to his disciples: "I will send my spirit." We know the chapter and verse in Acts when the Spirit arrives. In fact, don't we picture God as an old man in white robes for the Father, a young man in a tunic for Jesus and as a dove for the Holy Spirit? This reveals our very minimal understanding- the images we use to grasp God even a little bit and focus our prayers.

To see things through this lens is to put ourselves, not God, at the center of things. It breaks God down to fit into a chronology: creation, Jesus, then the Holy Spirit, leaving us where we are today, waiting for Jesus to return. This may work well in terms of story form, with a beginning, middle and end, but it is so very incomplete. It is so flat and completely unworthy of the greatness of our God and the richness of salvation.

One of the blessings of the doctrine of the Trinity is that it opens our possibilities for reaching and understanding God. Today's opening prayer reads, "Father, you sent your Word to bring us truth and your Spirit to make us Holy. Through them we come to know the mystery of your life." God keeps revealing God's self to us- in creation, in the Son, through the Holy Spirit.

John's gospel is also full of images Jesus gave us to contemplate. Jesus is the Bread of Life, Living Water, the Gate, the Word. There are people who believe that we can know everything about God by reading the bible. They believe it is clear and transparent and literal. The truth is that we only see aspects of God, never seeing God in God's entirety. God is bigger than our mind can penetrate. God's ways are beyond our full grasp. Think how that opens our lives to seeking to learn more about God. Think of all the ways God has yet to reveal God's self, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, to us.



## Stewardship Report:



### Revenue

<b>May 11th :</b>	<b>10,238.75</b>
<b>Faith Direct:</b>	<b>1,296.25</b>
<b>Total Offertory:</b>	<b>11,535.00</b>
<b>Last Year:</b>	<b>10,386.00</b>
<b>Poor Box:</b>	<b>159.30</b>
<b>Every Penny Counts Box:</b>	<b>55.20</b>

Number of Adult Envelopes: 289  
Number of Children's Envelopes: 11  
Number of Faith Direct donors: 34  
Number of Registered Households: 623

### Expenses

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

## Votive Lights

The votive lights burning from  
**Sunday, May 18th** through  
**Saturday, May 24th:**

At the [Shrine of the Sacred Heart](#): **For the Special Intentions of:** Bill & Donna Moore; Barbara Wahle; Father Bob (Ordination Anniversary); Father Jeff (Ordination Anniversary) and **For the Happy Repose of:** Mr. & Mrs. Len Boberick and Briana Hope

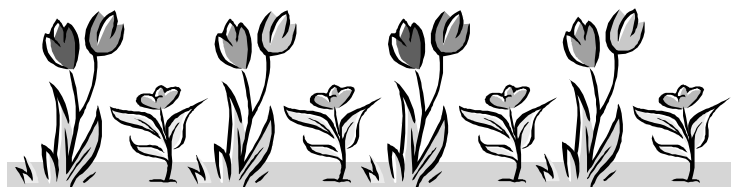


At the [Shrine of the Madonna and Child](#): **For the Special Intentions of:** Father Jeff (Ordination Anniversary); Don Falls; Becca & Kyle Falls; Fran Zatorski; and Helen Zatorski

## St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

The Raffle Drawing for  
Monday, May 12th:

**Mr. John P. Kelly** of  
Mitchellville, MD **won \$350**  
**He is the winner AND the seller!**



## Faith Formation:

**Faith Formation:** Our School year ends tomorrow, May 19th and all parents and guardians are invited to celebrate Mass with us at our usual class time. The children will gather in Friendship Hall and the catechists will escort them to church. Fr. Bob will be the celebrant. Parents may walk up the stairs or join us through the main entrance to the church.

**Registration for 2008-2009:** Forms will be sent home via regular mail. Please make sure to fill and return them to the Office for Faith Formation before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**In Gratitude:** Thanks to all the catechists and helpers who have assisted in various ways through out the year with the Faith Formation program: Magdalene Ibebuchi; Edward Johnson; Sandy Midgley; Kevin Butler; Tony Okolo; Innocent Nwadije; Suzanne Pouliot; Nwaneka Onuaku; Cosmas Nwokefor; Marilyn Lovett; Emmanuel Amanyeiwe; Christine Idedevo; Ingelise Gordon; Joan Peto; Evangeline Ndigwe; Natasha Andrews; Rosemary Ferrera; Kitty Hamby; Chinwe Amazu. Michael Nwadije; Brian Nwadije; Chinedu Nwokefor; Chidimma Nwosu; and Golden Okolo. Thank you all for a job well done!

*Thank you, parents and Confirmandi for the beautiful card and the globe Serenity Prayer. That happens to be one of my favorite prayers since I am always asking the Lord for guidance. I pray that you will always remember all that you learned during our sessions and especially the beautiful celebration we had with Bishop Holley. It has been a blessing to be of service to you here at St. Matthias. Thank you again, and GOD BLESS YOU!!*

## 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.

**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](http://www.campstcharles.com) or call 301-934-8799.

**2008 Retreats for Young Men:** Vocations retreats for young men will be held at Our Lady of Mattaponi Youth Retreat Center. Retreats will be run by Fr. Mark Smith, Assistant Director of Priest Vocations and are designed for young men who are open to the priesthood or are interested in learning more about the life and spirituality of the priest. For more information, please contact the Office of Priest Vocations at 301-853-4580 or email them at [vocations@adw.org](mailto:vocations@adw.org).

**Memorial Day Mass:** You are invited to join Bishop Holley at Resurrection Cemetery to celebrate the forty-first annual Memorial Day Mass on Monday, May 26, 2008 at 10:00am. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held under tents.

**Knights of Columbus Summer Camp:** Registration is now under way for the eight summer of camp in College Park, MD. Swim lessons, crafts, games, sports and free swim are all offered at the extensive facility. Forms can downloaded at <http://kofccamp.blogspot.com>. Questions can be directed to Ann Irwin at 240-393-2468 or [apberard@juno.com](mailto:apberard@juno.com).



## Mass Intentions for the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

### Monday, May 19

8:30 am Luisa Compas

### Tuesday, May 20

8:30 am Frank Carpino

### Wednesday, May 21: Christopher Magallanes, priest

8:30 am Fr. Jeff- 20th Anniversary of Ordination

### Thursday, May 22: Rita of Cascia, religious

8:30 am George & Mary Bittner (wedding anniv.)

### Friday, May 23

8:30 am Carl Leveck

### Saturday, May 24-Vigil: Body & Blood of Christ

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

5:00 pm Anthony & Stephanie Bello (lvg) Fr. Jeff

### Sunday, May 18: Body & Blood Of Christ

8:00 am Ann Treppiedi (lvg) Fr. Stan

9:30 am James Curran Fr. Bob

11:30am Fern McManus (healing) Fr. Bob

### 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 †  
*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](mailto:tguevara@stmatthias.org).*

## Visits to the St. Matthias Convent Chapel

From January 19, 2008 through January 21, 2009; the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine (in Vietnam and the USA province) is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. During this grace-filled year, the Apostolic Penitentiary has granted plenary indulgences to all those who visit to their chapels on certain feast days under the usual conditions.

The "usual conditions" for a plenary indulgence are sacramental confession, prayer for the Pope's intention and the absence of attachment to sin.



*The Convent Chapel will be open for visitations from 9:00am until 7:00pm on Sunday, May 25th and Friday, May 30th. Please join our Sisters as they celebrate during this time with a visit to the chapel.*