

§ Summertime Stewardship >
URGENT... PLEASE READ!

Last weekend, I spoke briefly at the conclusion of the two Masses I celebrated regarding the annual fiscal problem we face as we approach the end of our current fiscal year on June 30th and enter a new fiscal year on July 1st. Our operational cash flow during the months of May, June and early July are dramatically reduced. Without going into a long explanation of what causes this annual problem, suffice it to say it is increasing in its intensity with each passing year. Some simple numbers for you to place in context: Our bi-weekly payroll for our employees** (**inclusive of clergy, rectory staff, school teachers and administrative staff) now totals \$60,000 plus! Our health care premiums for our employees are now \$20,000 per month! Couple those numbers with an average electrical utility bill of \$5,500 and everything else we have to cover monthly (natural gas, telephone, supplies and materials, etc.) and you quickly come to an understanding that our weekly offertory is lacking.

To those of you who sacrifice weekly by either using your offertory envelopes or Faith Direct, I offer my sincere and heartfelt gratitude for it is your joyful return to the Lord that literally has allowed us to grow and prosper in our mission to preach the gospel and serve the poor! Those of you who make sacrificial giving a cherished principle of your life, and an essential part of your faith by expressing it in action, are the benchmark and guide to all other parishioners. Keep up the wonderful work of thanksgiving that you offer. What a marvelous example to provide especially to our young people, who more than ever need solid examples in their lives of how fulfilling it is when one sacrifices of themselves for the good of others!

Over 200 households that are nominally "registered" with our parish have made no contributions to date this calendar year! Another 150 households have contributed only once or twice since January 1, 2008 and those gifts, more often than not, are minimal at best...\$10 to \$30. My challenge/our challenge is to redouble our efforts in reaching these parishioners and educating them as to just how important their sustained weekly sacrificial gift is to our parish. We would not be in this financial hardship if everyone currently on our parish census contributed a minimum of \$20 each week and hopefully more if there income allows. I believe, under the guidance of our Parish Finance Council, that we have prudently and soundly managed the resources we receive. However, we are all fully aware of the strain our economy is placing on the shoulders of all citizens. If it is pinching your wallet imagine for a moment how it is affecting our ability to fulfill what God has asked of us. We must cover payroll and benefits and continue our assistance to the less fortunate in our community...to do anything less in unjust and unworthy of our Christian calling.


What can we do? First, we can rededicate our efforts in being sustained, weekly contributors to our parish by using our offering envelopes or by signing up for **Faith Direct** (registration forms in rectory office/service is free to the donor). If you know a neighbor or friend who claims to be a parishioner, yet you rarely see them at Mass, encourage them to return to the practice of their faith. Help them to understand just what a huge difference they can make in the work of Christ and His Church on earth. If every one of the more than 600 hundred households currently registered would sacrifice a minimum of \$20 each week, our prayers would be answered. I am looking for our Catholic community to embrace a true spirit of ownership. Invest in the Lord's work, and if we choose not to do this then we should be forewarned of something Jesus said in the Bible: "The measure you measure with will be measured back to you."

Finally, it will be imperative for everyone to make certain that you remember the Lord and your parish church prior to leaving on ...
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...vacation! Please drop off your regular offering at the rectory, place it in the regular offering collection or even mail it in! Do not forget the obligation to attend Mass every Sunday too! My congratulations to our students graduating from our parish school...the Class of 2008...what an exceptional group of young people! Great things await them in high school and pray with me that our teachers might have a well deserved, long summer's nap!

New Assignment for Father Bob– Father Bob will be leaving our St. Matthias family on June 22nd to join St. Bernadette's Parish in Silver Spring. We will miss his contributions to our own parish, but wish him a blessed beginning in his new position. Please join us for a Farewell Reception for him **after the 9:30 Mass on June 22nd in Friendship Hall** which will be hosted by our Ladies Of Charity.



Stewardship Report:



Revenue


June 1:	8,660.62
Faith Direct:	1,296.25
Total Offertory:	9,956.87
Last Year:	11,220.40
Poor Box:	142.97
Every Penny Counts Box:	51.16

Number of Adult Envelopes: 239
 Number of Children's Envelopes: 8
 Number of Faith Direct donors: 34
 Number of Registered Households: 623



Congratulations St. Matthias Apostle School Graduating Class of 2008!

*Elizabeth Berry; Jordan Bogle; Richard Burnett; Jacob Crouse;
 Eric Darnell; Marjorie Desamito; Adetokunbo Dosunmu;
 Salina Estifanos; Obieze Eze; Megan Goldsworthy; Alexander
 Grillo; Thomas James; Winton Lyle; Matthew May;
 Kevin McKeown; Jennifer Nuth; Philip Phelps;
 Andrea Coleen Quander; John Sygar; Megan Thibeau;
 Jessica Tinder; Brandon Troup; Brianna Tumos;
 & Okeychukwu Uzoho*



Votive Lights

The votive lights burning from
**Sunday, June 8th through
 Saturday, June 14th:**

At the Shrine of the Sacred Heart: **For the Special Intentions of:**
 Donna & Willie Moore (healing); Al Craig; Miriam Jacik; and
For the Happy Repose of: Saint Jude

At the Shrine of the Madonna and Child: **For the Special Intentions of:** Joe and Pat Makowski and for other special intentions

Other Items of Note:

Annual Father's Day Novena: Tired of giving the same gift every year to your father? Consider enrolling him in our Father's Day Novena of Masses scheduled to begin on Fathers Day, June 15th. Enrollment in the novena is open to all fathers, living and deceased. Cards are available to send to your living father, grandfather, godfather or other special men in your life. The card tells them of your special spiritual gift on Father's Day. A \$5 offering is suggested for each name inscribed in the novena. A selection of names of the fathers enrolled in the novena will be read aloud at each Mass during the nine-day period of special prayer. Cards will be available after the Masses this weekend. You may also stop by the rectory office during regular business hours to enroll your father's name.

Boy Scout Eagle Badge Honors: Congratulations to Cameron Bennett, Joseph Miller and David Phelps of St. Matthias Boy Scout Troop 411. They were awarded their Eagle Badges on Sunday, June 1st. The Eagle Rank is the highest honor a Boy Scout can earn and achieving it requires dedication, completion of many badges and the development and execution of a service project. These fine young men truly reflect the values of Boy Scouting.

Volunteers Needed: First United Methodist Church in Hyattsville is seeking volunteers for their "Feed the Homeless" program. If you are interested in helping to prepare and/or serve a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, June 18th, please contact Gwen Johnson at 301-249-1109.

Social Event: The St. Mathias Leisure Club presents a trip to the Rainbow Dinner Theater to see the play "Hold That Thought" on Thursday, July 31, 2008. The cost of the trip is \$75 and includes a buffet lunch, show and transportation. For information please call Rita Kitchings at 301-261-0681 by June 20, 2008.

CALENDAR SCHEDULING: If your organization needs to schedule use of one of our classrooms, the field, or Friendship Hall, please turn in your written requests to Tara in the rectory NO LATER than June 30th!

Faith Formation:

Pictures and DVDs: The First Communion DVDs are in so if you ordered one, please call the office to arrange for pick up. The pictures for both Confirmation and First Communion are also in and you may call the office to arrange for pick up.

First Reconciliation and First Communion for Children in Grades 3 – 7: Parents if you have a child in grade 3 - 7 who has not as yet celebrated his or her First Reconciliation and First Communion; do call the Faith Formation Office by Monday, June 16 to register your child. *A meeting will be held in the School Library on Tuesday, June 12 at 7:00pm for both parents and children who need to prepare to celebrate these sacraments.* Please mark these dates on your calendar: **First Reconciliation – Saturday, June 21 at 3:30pm (regular scheduled time for parish reconciliation); First Communion – Sunday June 22 at the 9:30am Mass.**



Mass Intentions for the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time



Monday, June 9

8:30 am Reverend Harry W. Jacobs

Tuesday, June 10

8:30 am Reverend Jeffrey Defayette (living)

Wednesday, June 11: Barnabas, apostle

8:30 am Carolina Manlapaz

Thursday, June 12

8:30 am Saint Matthias Ladies of Charity (living)

Friday, June 13

8:30 am Frank Carpino

Saturday, June 14: Vigil Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

5:00 pm Father's Day Novena Fr. Stan

Sunday, June 15: Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Brian Shaffer Fr. Jeff

9:30 am Father's Day Novena Fr. Bob

11:30am Jacques Magala Fr. Bob

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

Virgie Azarcon; Barbara Brink; Audrey Brown; Linda Bryans; Dan Comeaux; Al Craig; Fidel dela Cuesta; Lisa Cuthbert; Lisa Farland; Karen Fisher; Ferris (Bo) George; Joseph Harrison; Robert Hoke; Anne Mbimi Ifouini; Charles Jones; Katie Kennedy; Robyn Kirby; Nancy Maimone; Albertine Mandzo; Bob Martin; Carol McDonagh; Willie (Bill) Moore; Bernadette Murphy; Larry Murphy; Michael & Rosemarie Nardozi; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Thomas Opalski; Joseph Otero; Evelyn Pierce; Joe Sico; Ryan Zawada. **†For Our Military Serving in Afghanistan or Iraq:** Spc. Michael J. Chiddo; Ryan A. Morgan. **†For Our Deceased:** Grace Bessette; Adelie Ifouini; Michael Eckenrode; Mario Ifouini; Helen Jacik. *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 News:

Youth Graduation Mass: Each year St. Matthias acknowledges all of the graduates high school age and above during a graduation ceremony to be held the last Sunday in June. This year that celebration will be held on Sunday, June 29th. Any member of St. Matthias who has graduated or will be graduating during the 2007-2008 term is welcome to be a participant in the Mass celebrating all high school and college/university graduates. If you would like to participate in the graduation Mass, please contact Tara Guevara in the rectory office at extension 201.

College Bound Shower: This year we have (6) young men and women who have been active in Youth Group for whom we will be sponsoring College Bound Baskets. From Sunday, June 8 through Sunday, June 22nd, there will be a College Bound Shower Box in the back of the church. Please bring items listed on the **WISH LIST** and deposit them in the box before or after the Mass. Monetary donations are to be made payable to St. Matthias Youth Ministry. We know that there are others in the parish who will be graduating, if you desire to be a part of this process, please contact Mrs. Donna Stewart Moore at the rectory at 301-459-4814 or Mrs. Zita E. Givens on 301-577-1853.



St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

The Raffle Drawing for Monday, May 26th:
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Thibeau
of Lanham, MD **won \$350**
They are the **WINNERS & SELLERS!**