

§ The Year of the Priest >

Vatican City: Pope Benedict XVI declared a year of the priest in an effort to encourage "spiritual perfection" in priests. The pope will open the special year with a vespers service at the Vatican June 19 -- the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the day for the sanctification of priests. He will close the celebrations during a World Meeting of Priests in St. Peter's Square June 19, 2010. The pope made the announcement during an audience March 16 with members of the Vatican Congregation for Clergy. He met with some 70 participants of the congregation's March 16-18 plenary assembly, which focused on the missionary identity of the priest and his mission to sanctify, teach and govern.

During this jubilee year, the pope will also proclaim St. John Vianney to be patron saint of all the world's priests. At present he is considered the patron saint of parish priests. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the death of this 19th-century saint who represents a "true example of a priest at the service of the flock of Christ," the pope said. St. John Vianney is widely known to Catholics as the Cure (parish priest) of Ars who won over the hearts of his villagers in France by visiting with them, teaching them about God and reconciling people to the Lord in the confessional.

In his address, Pope Benedict said the priestly ministry consists of total adherence to the ecclesial tradition of participating "in a spiritually intense new life and a new lifestyle which was inaugurated by the Lord Jesus and which the apostles made their own." Priestly ordination creates new men who are bestowed with the gift and office of sanctifying, teaching and governing, he said. The pope underlined the necessary and "indispensable struggle for moral perfection which must dwell in every authentically priestly heart."

The pope said he was calling for the special year for priests in an effort to foster the priest's yearning "for spiritual perfection, upon which the effectiveness of their ministry principally depends." "The awareness of the radical social changes over the past decades must stir the best ecclesial energies to look after the formation of priestly candidates," the pope said. This means great care must be taken to ensure permanent and consistent doctrinal and spiritual formation for seminarians and priests, he said, specifying the importance of passing down, especially to younger generations, "a correct reading of the texts of the Second Vatican Council, interpreted in the light of all the church's doctrinal heritage." Priests must also be "present, identifiable and recognizable -- for their judgment of faith, their personal virtues and their attire -- in the fields of culture and charity which have always been at the heart of the church's mission," he said. "The centrality of Christ leads to a correct valuation of ordained ministry," he said, adding that, without priestly ministry, there would be no Eucharist, no mission and even no church. Therefore, he said, it is crucial to make sure that new bodies or pastoral organizations are not set up "for a time in which one might have to 'dispense with' ordained ministry based on an erroneous interpretation of the rightful promotion of the laity." "This would lay the foundations for further diluting the priestly ministry, and any supposed 'solutions' would dramatically coincide with the real causes of the problems currently connected with the ministry," he said.



Congratulations! Father Raymond Collins, who celebrated Masses here at St. Matthias for about 13 years, will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood on June 28th at St. Luke's Church in Barrington, Rhode Island. If you would like to send a card, you may send it to the following address: PO Box 507, Saunderstown RI 02874-0507. He has also invited anyone who will be in Southern New England on that day to join him at St. Luke's.



Stewardship Report:

Revenue



June 7 th :	9,939.22
Faith Direct:	1,565.00
Total Offertory:	11,504.22
Last Year:	10,683.00
Building and Maintenance Fund:	2,951.63
Poor Box:	290.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	85.65

Number of Adult Envelopes: 261
Number of Children's Envelopes: 8
Number of Faith Direct donors: 45
Number of Registered Households: 668

- **2009 Annual Archbishop's Appeal Progress Report as of June 1st:** Congratulations to St. Matthias Parishioners who helped us achieve our goal. **Goal: 60,253.83 ~ Pledged: 62,236.00 ~ Percentage of Goal Pledged: 103.29% ~ Amount Received: 38,243.00 ~ Percentage of Goal Cash Received: 63.47%.** Thanks to all who are contributing and keep up the good work.
- **Summer Stewardship:** Please remember that your parish counts on your weekly sacrifice of treasure, joyfully given to the Lord in gratitude, and that treasure is needed even when you're away from us on vacation. Please remember to mail your offertory envelope to the rectory before you go away on a well-deserved holiday or drop it in the collection basket the week before you leave. Thank you for being a faithful steward!

Our New Administrative Assistant: Father Jeff is pleased to announce that the position of Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Pastor has been filled. Beginning on or about July 1st Mr. Jeffrey McConnell will assume this important position within our parish offices. Mr. McConnell is not a stranger to the workings of a parish. He is very active within his own parish of St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill and has worked in the human resources offices of the archdiocese of Washington for nearly a decade. Mr. McConnell is looking forward to getting acquainted with our other staff members and our parishioners. Please join Father Jeff in welcoming him during his first weeks with us.

During the two month process between the day we knew we had to begin a search and that final day when we offered the position to Mr. McConnell, Carmen Kosko filled the void in the interim as a volunteer. I/We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Carmen who has offered us her time and talents selflessly and as we all know, most graciously. Please also take a moment to offer a word of gratitude to her when the opportunity presents itself. Thank you Carmen.

Outdoor Parish Shrines; Memorials and Tributes:

The votive lights burning from June 14th through June 20th

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

For the Special Intentions of: the Ferrara family; Innocent Francis; Ngozi Francis; Dike M. Uzoukwu, Sr.; Dike M. Uzoukwu, Jr.; Nnamdi Uzoukwu; Ifeanyi Uzoukwu and Chinyere Uzoukwu.

Shrine of the Madonna & Child

For the Special Intentions of: Ugochukwu Francis; Chiamaka Francis; Amarachi Francis; Chinonso Francis; Chuka Uzoukwu; and for Chiderah Uzoukwu.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation: Our School year has ended and we are most grateful to all the catechists and helpers who gave of their time and talent to assist with this year's program. We hope you will have a wonderful and restful summer and return to us refreshed for yet another year of Faith Formation. God bless you!

Registration for 2009-2010: Forms have been mailed home via regular mail. Please make sure to fill out and return them to the Office of Faith Formation before July 31st. If you do not receive a letter from us, please check with the office to make sure we have the correct address for you.

First Communion and Confirmation Pictures: There is still time to order pictures if you forgot to do so. The First Communion pictures will comprise a set of four; receiving the Eucharist, group picture with class; family picture with Father Jeff and communicant with Father Jeff. Please call Dorothy in the Office of Faith Formation at 301-459-4814 ext 205 or send the forms in as soon as possible. Confirmation pictures will also include family pictures with Archbishop Wuerl as well as candidates being anointed.

Youth News

The Youth Group would like to thank the following people for volunteering timeless hours to make the 70-80's Showcase of Talent the huge success it turned out to be. Mrs. Robin Hall, Mrs. Zita Givens, Miss Faith Murrell, Mrs. Karen Jackson, Miss Ugonna Ibebuchi, Mrs. Sarah Green, Mr. Chuks Onyewu, Mr. Emmanuel and Dr. Ugo Amanyiwe, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ware, Mr. Linwood Robinson, Mr. Kendall Givens-Little, Miss Gabriel Givens, Mr. Irenaus Ibe, Miss Folake Alabi, Miss Jacqueline Adamson, Mr. David Bernstein, Mrs. Suzanne Pouliot, Mrs. Sandy Midgley the graduates from St. Margaret's School ~ Mark Hall and Marcus Wright, Joshua and Isaiah Chambers (Kingsford), Our own special little ones from Faith Formation, Davida and Michael Okyere-Fosu, Anulika and Ebube Agilia, Daniel and Elizabeth Adekoya, and Mrs. Dorothy Mensah-Aggrey. Thank you too to the following families who donated from the giving tree, the Ibebuchi, Green, and Loffredo families, and an anonymous giver. Last but certainly not least, our Pastor for his cakes and brownies! May the Lord continue to bless all of you as you continue to help to build HIS Kingdom! Your generosity never goes unnoticed. *Together Everyone Achieves More.*

GRADUATION MASS: The Graduation Mass is for those whom have graduated from the 12th Grade thru College. The Mass will take place Sunday, June 28, 2009 at the 9:30am Mass! All are welcome. Please submit all names to the Youth Ministry Office if you have a teen graduating from High School or someone from College! For further information please contact Mrs. Donna Stewart-Moore at 301-459-4814

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Thank you to the following businesses for their support of our Youth Groups 70-80's Showcase of Talent and More, The **Jasper's Restaurant** of Greenbelt; **Gold 'N' Diamonds**; **Safeway Inc**; **Seabrook Quick Lube**; **Shopper's** and **WPGC 95.5**. Thank you for donating to our Basket Raffle! It is great to see our business owners support our teens. I am certain that our parishioners will continue to support your businesses. Our teens grossed \$1,637.80 and the net profit was \$1,250.91 after expenses. Thanks again for all your support! **Saint Matthias the Apostle Youth Group!**

Other Items of Note

New Pamphlets: We currently have three new pamphlets in the pamphlet racks with information on the **Anointing of the Sick**, **Major Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church** and **The Church and Cremation**.



Mass Intentions from Corpus Christi thru The Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time



Monday, June 15:

8:30 am Enis Forte

Tuesday, June 16:

8:30 am Intentions of Dorothy R. Aggrey—Birthday

Wednesday, June 17:

8:30 am Edwin & Rita Walters

Thursday, June 18:

Anniversary of Canonical Establishment of Parish ~ 1960

365 Days and counting until our Golden Jubilee

8:30 am Intentions of Carmen & Richard Kosko

Friday, June 19: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

8:30 am John Donohue, Sr.

Devotions and Consecration to the Sacred Heart

Beginning of the Year of the Priest

Saturday, June 20: Vigil – Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

5:00 pm Father's Day Novena

Sunday, June 21: Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Father's Day Novena

9:30 am Cyril O. Okonkwo

11:30 am This Mass has been canceled for the summer.

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

Anne Benson; Mary Bittner; Margaret Brooks; Audrey Brown; Dennis George; Helen Guditis; Charles Henry; Lena Jacobs; Ray Krok; Joe Makowski; Willie (Bill) Moore; Rosemarie Nardozi; Peter O'Neill; Joe & Irene Pezzuti; Bill Pinchback; Rohland Reich; Joe Sico; Margaret Tolzman; Anita Topnick; Margaret Zanin †**For the Deceased:** Magdalene Bell; Cyril O. Okonkwo. Names will be placed on our prayer list for three weeks. To add a name or to request continuing prayers, please contact Carmen Kosko by email at ckosko@stmatthias.org or by phone at 301-459-4814 ext 201.

Calendar: Don't forget to get in your requests for space in the school or church for events taking place from July 2009 to the end of December 2009 in writing to Carmen Kosko by this Friday, June 19th. You may also e-mail Carmen at ckosko@stmatthias.org. **We need the following information:** contact person; a home and work telephone number; meeting/event to be held; time of meeting/event; preference for meeting space/room. Requests will be processed on a first come, first served basis with parish/school business taking priority. You will be notified if there are any conflicts with other groups or organizations once the rough draft of the calendar is completed.

SCHOOL RAFFLE WINNER

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Ferguson of Clinton, MD (winner of \$350) as winner AND seller of this week's ticket!



God's Humor

Did you know that there were computers in biblical times?? Eve had an Apple.