

## § Reflection on the Gospel >

I doubt if there is anyone here worshiping today who has not suffered, or will not have to suffer sometime and to some degree, the same sharp, personal agony that the prophet Jeremiah has experienced in today's first reading. I refer to the agony of having others try to lessen our good name, or blacken our reputation by spreading false reports about us, or by misinterpreting our actions, or by twisting the meaning of our words or by misjudging our intentions and emotions.

Few things, if any, are more precious to a person than his or her good name and good health. And yet, if we have suffered from having our good name damaged, we probably have also done our share of lessening other people's good names as well, even if sometimes unknowingly, sometimes intentionally, and perhaps sometimes even maliciously.

This is a form of bearing false witness, as forbidden by the eighth and ninth commandment. One of the worst sins a Christian can be guilty of is to intentionally seek to destroy or damage a person or a relationship by false reports, by false interpretations, or by simply passing along malicious gossip. We remember that Jesus himself ended up as the victim of just such false witness.

Once you have planted the seeds of suspicion and doubt about a person in the minds of others, you can never fully undo the damage you have done. Some have compared this with trying to put back into a torn pillow its feathers now blowing in the wind.

Sometimes people mention in confession that they have been "talking about others." This is not in itself sinful. This is normal human activity. The sinfulness lies in the motive. Sin is our freely choosing to hurt another and the degree of sinfulness depends on our degree of malice. Humans are more prone to jealousy than we like to admit. We seek to bring people above us down to our level, and we gain satisfaction in doing so by whatever sinful means we can employ.

When we ourselves are victims of false reports and malicious rumors, we feel helpless and defenseless. Often it is the ones, who, like Jeremiah, seek to walk the straight and narrow, who find themselves being attacked and defamed, sometimes by friends they trusted!

If we find ourselves in the situation of Jeremiah, with our good name and our good deeds under attack, then we must find the same consolation that Jeremiah had when he said: "The Lord is with me like a mighty champion. My persecutors will stumble. They will not triumph." In this he shows that we must trust in the Lord to restore our good name and to punish those who have knowingly and maliciously tried to hurt us.

Finally, Jesus tells us in the gospel today that we shouldn't worry about those who would try to harm us, unless they also have the power to stifle the life of grace within us or can force us to deny Jesus. If we safeguard the good name of others, then God will safeguard ours.



## Stewardship Report:



### Revenue

<b>June 16:</b>	<b>9,291.39</b>
<b>Faith Direct:</b>	<b>1,290.00</b>
<b>Total Offertory:</b>	<b>10,581.39</b>
<b>Last Year:</b>	<b>9,131.20</b>
<b>Poor Box:</b>	<b>166.00</b>
<b>Every Penny Counts Box:</b>	<b>64.27</b>

Number of Adult Envelopes: 253  
Number of Children's Envelopes: 17  
Number of Faith Direct donors: 34  
Number of Registered Households: 623

### Weekly Offertory Envelopes:

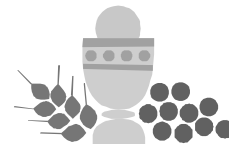


Please note that the weekly offertory envelopes for the next quarter (July, August, September) were delayed in their printing and shipping so they will be arriving later than usual. Once the office receives

confirmation that the envelopes have been mailed, we will notify our registered parishioners. If you happen to run out of envelopes before receiving the next set, please be sure to use your envelope number on any and all contributions so that you will be given proper credit for your generous sacrifice of treasure! Thank you for your patience!

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!

## Farewell Father Bob!



Thank you for your faithful service to our parish over the past 2 years!

We wish you the best in your new assignment and continued blessings!



Good Luck and continued blessings also to our Parish Organist, *Mary Catherine Levri*, who has accepted a job at another parish in Virginia. Her last weekend with us will be *June 28th and 29th.*

## Other Items of Note:



**Calendar Planning:** The rectory office staff is beginning to plan the calendar for all parish committee/organization meetings, events, and activities for the second-half of 2008 (July through December). All committee chairpersons and parish organizations/groups are asked to submit in writing, requests for use of Friendship Hall, school classrooms, playing field, and other spaces on parish property for July through December. Please do not assume that your group will be automatically scheduled. When making your request for meeting space, please be sure to include the name of the committee or organization; a chairperson/contact person along with their complete mailing address; home and work telephone numbers as well as e-mail information. Conflicts in scheduling will be settled by the pastor and chairpersons will be notified if changes are necessary. Please submit all requests to the rectory, attention Tara Guevara, **no later than Monday, June 30th.** You may also e-mail your requests to: [tguevara@stmatthias.org](mailto:tguevara@stmatthias.org).

**Food Pantry Donations:** Please remember the less fortunate in our community through the summer months as more and more local families need assistance. The Ladies of Charity ask that you bring in your non-perishable food donations and leave them in the back of the church on the last Friday of each month. Donations may also be dropped off at the rectory. Please be sure all foods are not nearing their expiration dates! Thank you for your continued support of the needy in our area!



**New Pamphlets Available in our Church Vestibule:** The "Good News About" series from Father Jude Winkler is now available in the following titles; The Origin of the Papacy in the Bible; Christian Parenting; Keeping Holy the Lord's Day; Learning to Read the Bible; Visions and Apparitions; The Power of Prayer; Learning to Pray; Expressing Reverence in our Celebration of the Eucharist.

## 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.

**Faith Formation Registration:** Registration for the 2008-2009 school year is in progress. Remember that there will be late fees of \$25.00 after July 1st so please be sure to register on time.

## Votive Lights

The votive lights burning from

**Sunday, June 22nd through Saturday, June 28th:**

At the Shrine of the Sacred Heart: **For the Special Intentions of:** Greg George and **For the Happy Repose of:** George O. Defayette

At the Shrine of the Madonna and Child: **For the Special Intentions of:** Kaitlyn DeMaio and **For the Happy Repose of:** George O. Defayette

### St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

The Raffle Drawing for Monday, June 16th:  
**Andre Wander** (winner) of Lanham, MD **won \$300**  
**Veronica Wander** (seller) of Lanham, MD **won \$50**



## Mass Intentions for the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time



### Monday, 23

8:30 am Juliana P. Manlapaz (living)

### Tuesday, June 24: Nativity of John the Baptist

8:30 am John Donohue, Sr.

### Wednesday, June 25

8:30 am Carl Levock

### Thursday, June 26

8:30 am Luigina Pezzuti

### Friday, June 27: Cyril of Alexandria, bishop, doctor

8:30 am Albert Gritz

### Saturday, June 28: Vigil of Peter & Paul

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

Fr. Richard

5:00 pm Virginia Craig

Fr. Richard

### Sunday, June 29: Peter & Paul; Apostles

8:00 am Mildred Ayeah (living)

Fr. Richard

9:30 am Peter George Fofung

Fr. Richard

11:30am Fr. Augustine Kizito Abizi

Fr. Richard

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

Virgie Azarcon; Barbara Brink; Linda Bryans; Dan Comeaux; Al Craig; Fidel dela Cuesta; Lisa Cuthbert; Lisa Farland; Karen Fisher; Jose Guevara; Joseph Harrison; Robert Hoke; Anne Mbimi Ifouini; Charles Jones; Robyn Kirby; Nancy Maimone; Albertine Mandzo; Bob Martin; Willie (Bill) Moore; Bernadette Murphy; Larry Murphy; Michael & Rosemarie Nardozi; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Thomas Opalski; Joseph Otero; Evelyn Pierce; Jose Ocasio Rodriguez; Joe Sico; Veronica Verna; Marian C. Wahle; Ryan Zawada

### †For Our Military Serving in Afghanistan or Iraq:

Spc. Michael J. Chiddo; Ryan A. Morgant

### †For Our Deceased:

Rita Walters

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).

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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.