

§ Reflection on the Gospel >

Every Sunday Eucharist should have some of the joy of the first Palm Sunday, and this is especially true of this Sunday's Eucharist. There is joy as the first reading foretells the Messiah's entry into Jerusalem, a Messiah who brings God's own peace to the world. There is a joy as we hear Jesus revealing himself as that Messiah in the gospel. There is joy as we come to know God the Father's love for us in the beloved Son, who lives with us and in us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout his life, Jesus found joy in showing the merest ones that the Father was making them God's dearest children. The humble and poor ones knew their need for God's mercy and loving kindness, and thus they alone could approach God as Jesus did: like a trusting, loving child. The simple people, those whom Jesus called "the little ones," showed that they were really the wise and understanding ones. They learned from Jesus that the Father was already establishing the reign of love, justice and peace in their midst. They welcomed that reign of God made flesh in Jesus, and they took his yoke upon their shoulders, throughout life and unto death.

But what exactly is the yoke that Jesus compares discipleship to? It may be a pole across the shoulders to facilitate the carrying of a burden. But it may also be the more familiar harness for oxen. If so, then this saying of Jesus about taking his yoke upon us may derive from his days as a carpenter in Nazareth. Yoke making must have been a daily task for him, since he would have been called to fit a yoke to each particular ox.

Yoke taking, being yoked to Jesus, is a daily task for us disciples of Jesus, and the yoke of discipleship must be tailored to each follower of Jesus in a unique way. In fitting ourselves into that frame, there is much that only we can decide, as well as much that we do not ask for.

The only reason that we can put on this yoke and find it easy to bear is that another has carried it before us, one who carried all of our burdens along the way of his cross. In Jesus, the yoke becomes a pole to help us bear our burdens, a yoke of love that binds us, with him, in service to our God and to each other.

We accept the yoke at baptism, and we know its saving power throughout our lives. But this yoke can be rejected. "Their hearts are astray, these people who do not know my way... Never shall they enter my rest." (Ps 95:10-11) Those desert wanderers spurned the yoke of God's Word and God's will that would have kept their hearts close to God.

Their descendents, the self righteous and proud ones, also had no use for such a yoke. But the humble and simple people, the "little ones," delighted in it. In accepting Jesus, they accepted his yoke as a sure guide on the way to God. For them, as for us, discipleship is how "the Lord lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down" (Ps. 145:14)



Stewardship Report:



Revenue

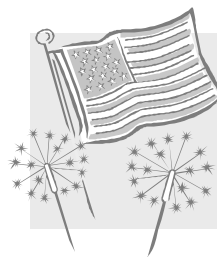
June 29:	8,302.71
Faith Direct:	1,290.00
Total Offertory:	9,592.71
Last Year:	11,394.25
Poor Box:	131.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	42.85

Number of Adult Envelopes: 241
Number of Children's Envelopes: 4
Number of Faith Direct donors: 34
Number of Registered Households: 623

Weekly Offertory Envelopes: Have you received your weekly offertory envelopes for the months of **JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER??** If not, please contact Tara in the rectory. If you have moved, please update your address so that you can continue to receive your envelopes and parish mailings. And don't forget that you can sign up for **FAITH DIRECT** and have your weekly gift automatically debited from a bank account or credit card! Information and forms are available in the rectory.

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!

Prayer For Our Nation



God our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to Your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people. Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your will. Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death." Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



Other Items of Note:

Assistance Needed for Iowa Flood Victims: The Greenbelt Rotary will be collecting canned goods, non-perishable food items, bottled water, household and personal cleaning products and paper goods for the victims of the Iowa flood. Camping equipment for cooking, sleeping and water purification is also useable as well as serviceable clothing and shoes and items for babies and small children. The collection will take place on **June 28th and 29th** as well as **July 5th and 6th from 11am until 5pm at SK Motors** located at 10805 Lanham Severn Road in Lanham. For information, contact Steve Kemp at 301-237-8098. Please help us make a difference to the flood victims and help us pack a trailer truck to send to Iowa on July 7th!

Job Opening: Catholic Charities, a leading human services organization, is seeking to fill a position devoted to assisting the Catholic Parishes in PG County as a **Parish Partner Coordinator**. For more information on requirements, please contact Vanessa Stewart at: Vanessa.Stewart@CatholicCharitiesDC.org

Shoe Boxes With Tops Needed: Julie Kelley, our lower level school librarian and art teacher is asking for parishioners to donate shoe boxes with attached lids for a project for the upcoming 2008-2009 school year. If you come across such boxes over the summer, please drop them off at the rectory office. Thank you for your assistance!


Dick Brown Memorial Camp: St. Jerome's School will be hosting the Dick Brown Memorial Basketball camp from August 11 through the 15th for boys and girls ages 7-14. For details on this camp, please contact Charley Grau at 301-776-1063

Faith Formation:

Did You Know...???? Are you wondering what the question is? Well, did you know that most Catholics LOVE to read their Bible? Oh, yes, I can see the smile on your face. Well, unfortunately that statement will be false if we were to go by the True or False format. Most Catholics know how to say their prayers from A-Z and yet may not be able to tell you from which part of the Bible a particular prayer has been taken. Now, that will be a definite True!

So, what are we going to do about that? A few young adults have approached me and are wondering if we could start a Bible Study group or Sharing or just something to help them bring their faith alive. I say AMEN to that!!! This is long overdue. Almost every parish in the Archdiocese of Washington has a Young Adult Group that is very active.

Why are we Catholics so lukewarm when it comes to committing some extra time to learn about our wonderful faith? Read the bulletin next week to find out!



Just A Reminder

For all parents of St. Matthias School Children: The first tuition payment is due on **Thursday July 10th!**

St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

For the June 23rd Drawing:
Winner ~ Mrs. Trina Coyle of Bowie, MD
Seller ~ Cathleen Newman of Davidsonville, MD

For the June 30th Drawing:
Winner ~ Tony Bello of Lanham, MD
Seller ~ Mary Troup of Seabrook, MD



Mass Intentions for the Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, July 7

8:30 am Charles Dziduch

Tuesday, July 8

8:30 am Brian C. Shaffer

Wednesday, July 9: Augustine Zhao Rong, priest, martyr

8:30 am Karl Hagen

Thursday, July 10

8:30 am Brian Shaffer

Friday, July 11: Benedict, abbot

8:30 am Catherine Agbonrofo

Saturday, July 12: Vigil- Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

5:00 pm Stephanie Bello (lvg- b'day)& Julia Staelens

Sunday, July 13: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Edna Syreika

9:30 am Raymond Ihegbe & Family (lvg- spl int.)

11:30am Letty Buan

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

Virgie Azarcon; Barbara Brink; Linda Bryans; 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 Nardoizzi; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Thomas Opalski; Joseph Otero; Evelyn Pierce; Jose Ocasio Rodriguez; Joe Sico; Marian C. Wahle; Ryan Zawada **†For Our Military Serving in Afghanistan or Iraq:** Spc. Michael J. Chiddo; Ryan A. Morgan **†For Our Deceased:** Veronica Verna; Rev. Msgr. James B. Joy **†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.**

Votive Lights

The votive lights burning from **Sunday, June 29th through Saturday, July 5th:**



Shrine of the Madonna and Child:

For the Special Intentions of:
John & Frani Peifer; Melinda George and Molly George

Shrine of the Sacred Heart:

For the Special Intentions of:
John De Maio