

## Gospel Reflection

Moving can be a challenge; but for me, a creature of habit, the task is even more demanding than normal. Previously when having moved into a new office, I found myself reaching for the phone where I'm used to finding it and instead, grabbing air. But the biggest annoyance had to do with the computer desk. My predecessor was a smaller man than I, so the desk at which he spent many hours was considerably smaller as well. When I first tried to position myself to do some computer work, I discovered my knees would simply not fit under the table. One would think that after one or two attempts, I would give up. But it took me about three days of ramming both my knees into the solid oak frame and letting out cries of distress before my secretary finally ordered me a new computer desk. Within days, the problem was solved, and I was saved from limb-threatening injury!

I share this experience with you to illustrate a rather nagging problem that we humans seem incapable of solving: not learning from our mistakes. From the earliest recorded history, we have been a race of people that tries consistently to solve disputes by using violence. And no matter how sad, tragic, and deadly the outcome, we still seem reliant on trying it one more time. I can't explain the logic we use in circling back to violence when it comes to solving our problems, but I do know that it is becoming more and more of a problem. As weapons grow in sophistication and effectiveness, the consequences grow more and more devastating. It is no wonder that the twentieth century saw a proliferation of global warfare and, along with it, a new kind of cynicism about the human race that seems to fatalistic for comfort.

Along with the growing destruction of war, the world began to adopt an attitude of resignation that humankind will never learn from it's mistakes, and we'll just keep killing each other until there is no one left to kill. What is most alarming is that more of us are accepting that as fact.

We could find lots of political reasons for accepting it. We might even find some cultural and moral reasons too. But the one place you will never find support for violence is in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Lately, people have tried desperately to make it seem as though it belongs there. To hear some people tell it, you'd swear the golden rule is that we need to kill before we are killed, or better yet: Let's kill our neighbors in their yard, so we don't have to fight them in ours. Just for the record, this is not Christian. This is not what Jesus meant when He said, "love your enemies." There is no evidence in Scripture or tradition, not one shred of evidence that Jesus fudged on his stance against violence in any form.

I can't help but think this is what was going through His mind when he felt great pity for the crowds that sought him out. They were hearing revolutionary ideas that suddenly gave them hope in the midst of despair. They didn't have the military strength to fight the Romans, but Jesus was telling them they didn't need it. Their weapons were not to be swords and spears, but love and compassion. They were not to be aggressive but passive. They were not called to revenge but to forgiveness. For Jesus, it was indeed possible to become people of peace. But the so-called shepherds of His day were convincing them otherwise. They had people convinced that war was productive, meaningful—and yes, even moral.

We all know which message finally won over the hearts of the people, but that doesn't mean we can stop trying to embrace the gospel of peace. With deadly wars a daily fact of life, we have to keep challenging the false shepherds of our day who are still misguiding the flock into thinking this is normal human behavior. We need to rediscover the voice of the Good Shepherd calling us to a different way of responding. The false shepherds will be quick to use the name of Jesus in order to gain our trust, but there is a foolproof way of testing their message: If even one little part of it includes violence in any form, it is not from Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Let us pray in this Eucharist that those who are being led by these false shepherds will soon know the way of the true and only shepherd



## Stewardship Report: Revenue



July 5 <sup>th</sup> :	8,183.79
Faith Direct:	1,602.75
Total Offertory:	9,786.54
Last Year:	10,753.22
Building and Maintenance Fund:	2,592.28
Poor Box:	171.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	79.59

Number of Adult Envelopes: 213  
 Number of Children's Envelopes: 6  
 Number of Faith Direct donors: 45  
 Number of Registered Households: 668



- **2009 Annual Archbishop's Appeal Progress Report as of July 1st:** Congratulations to St. Matthias Parishioners who helped us achieve our goal. **Goal: 60,253.83— Pledged: 64,301 - Percentage of Goal Pledged: 106.72% Amount Received: 64,301 Percentage of Goal Cash Received 68.52. Thanks to all who are contributing and keep up the good work.**
- "The promotion of the practice of stewardship is important for the mission of the Church and for the spiritual well-being of each individual Christian. Everyone benefits from the sacrificial gift one makes of his time, talent and treasure. Therefore, please accept my encouragement for your efforts and my prayers that you continue the practice of stewardship in the Church." — *His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI*
- **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!
- **Recycling Bin:** If you haven't finished your "spring cleaning" why don't you get rid of all of your old newspapers, magazines, catalogs, office paper and mail piling up in your home. Bring them to our Green and Yellow paper recycling container located in the area to the left of the parking lot behind the school. It is an easy way to help earn cash for our school, and model environmentally responsible behavior for your children.
- **A Stewardship Moment:** The Letter to the Ephesians relates to us that God, the Father has established a divine plan to bring all of creation to Christ and that He has blessed us with the divine gifts to help implement the plan. Christian stewards know what their gifts are and are committed to using them in the service of the Lord. Do we know what our gifts are? Do we believe that God has given us these gifts? Are we committed to using our gifts to serve the Lord?



## Youth News:

**Youth Group:** has come to a successful close again! Congratulations to our Graduates, Emma Morfaw, Cristin Green, Denzel Ezenwaka, Michael Nwadije, Kyle Jamolin and Kayade Ereme (High School), Michelle Jokoh, Nneka Nwokefor and Arinze Onuaku I would like to acknowledge this year's winner of the One Thousand dollar **Messenger of God Scholarship, Cristin Green!** Thank you to the following for their generous donation to our Graduation Baskets this year: Mr. Phillip & Mrs. Patricia Ates, Mr. Donald & Mrs. Barbara Falls, Mr. Harold Jr. & Mrs. Deborah Self, Ms. Hazel Campbell, Fr. Jeffrey Defayette, Ms. Louise Kerns, Ms. Juanita Pielmeier-McGinn, Mr. Raymond & Mrs. Barbara Zanin Ms. Ugonna Ibeuchi, Mrs. Suzanne Pouliot and Mrs. Claudia Maitland we will keep you in our prayers. Youth Group would also like to thank Mrs. Gwendolyn King, Misses Ugonna & Ogechi Ibeuchi and Mr. Chuks Onyewu for the many hours of preparation for our baskets and bulletin board. We can't forget our steady flow of volunteers, Mrs. Zita Givens, Mrs. Jackson. Mrs. Sarah Green, Mrs. Pouliot, Dr. Ugo Amanyeiwe! Thank you for the giving of yourselves and thank your spouses for sharing you and your time as we continue to build HIS Kingdom. Have a great summer see you in September! Love and Prayers Mrs. Moore

## Items of Note

**Pamphlets:** We currently offer three more new pamphlets in the pamphlet racks with information on the **How to Live with Cancer:** the purpose of this pamphlet is to provide ideas for healing, help and hope through the chaos of treatment options; **Alcohol and Drugs:** gives information to help young people know when there is a problem and how best to handle it; and **Living with Grief and Loss:** contains information on how to deal with the grief process and how to successfully adjust to life after the death of a love one.

**Jesus Needs Altar Servers:** St. Matthias is holding an "Introductory Orientation" for altar serving for students starting in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade (as of this Fall) through adults of any age, on Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> from 7 to 8pm in the church. No experience necessary. Come out and see what it's all about. If you plan to attend, please call or e-mail either Cynthia Faust 202-320-2174 [cfaust@atelierarchitects.com](mailto:cfaust@atelierarchitects.com) or Martin Kwapinski 301-459-4508 [martin.kwapinski@gsa.gov](mailto:martin.kwapinski@gsa.gov).

**The Altar Society Ministry:** Have you wondered who works behind the scenes, taking care of all the details that keep the church linens, brass, etc. clean and beautiful? Who washes and irons altar linens? Who removes wax and polishes candle holders? Who dusts the altar, cleans the holy water containers and refills them with holy water? Who dusts the pews and cleans the hymnal holders of all trash? The Altar Society Ministry is a group of volunteers devoted to taking care of these needs of the church. If you would like to join this group please contact Carmen Kosko at 301-262-5277 or by e-mail at [carmen7081@verizon.net](mailto:carmen7081@verizon.net).

**Fr. Jude Winkler, OFM Conv** invites everyone to listen to his reflections on the daily Mass readings which can be accessed at [www.companionsofstanthony.org](http://www.companionsofstanthony.org). Also, you can keep up with his schedule and talk with him on his weekly blog at [www.blog.companionsofstanthony.org](http://www.blog.companionsofstanthony.org). He would enjoy hearing from you."

**Education Parish Service:** Are you a Catholic who is ready to take the next step in your spiritual development? Do you have lots of questions about your faith, but not enough answers? Don't put it off any longer! For 30 years, Education • Parish • Service has been educating adult Catholics to understand, live and share their faith through courses in Scripture, theology and practical application of the faith. Day and evening courses are held on the campus of Trinity (Washington) University, 125 Michigan Ave., NE, Washington, D.C. To learn about upcoming courses, see <http://eps.trinitydc.edu> or contact Ann Kitterman at [kittermana@trinitydc.edu](mailto:kittermana@trinitydc.edu) or

### SCHOOL RAFFLE WINNER

Congratulations to **Ronald Horton** of Washington, DC (winner of \$300) AND **Rhonda Taylor** (\$50.00 as seller) of this week's ticket!



## Mass Intentions Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time

### Monday, July 13: Henry

8:30 am Deacon Morris M.P. Williams

### Tuesday, July 14: Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, virgin

8:30 am Ayodeji Fatogun

### Wednesday, July 15: Bonaventure, bishop & doctor

8:30 am Alma Avitia

### Thursday, July 16: Our Lady of Mount Carmel

8:30 am Carmen Velasco & Victor Sanchez

### Friday, July 17:

8:30 am Morning Mass Attendees

### Saturday, July 18:

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

Vigil – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 pm John Warrington

### Sunday, July 19: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Intentions of Mary & Tony Lunney

9:30 am Louis Stinnett

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

### Please pray for: ♦The Sick and Homebound In Our

**Parish:** Mary Bittner; Margaret Brooks; Audrey Brown; Charles Jones; Lisa Farland; Paul Gambrell; Dennis George; Helen Guditis; Charles Henry; Lena Jacobs; Elizabeth Kin; Ray Krok; Elizabeth Lancon; Joe Makowski; Willie (Bill) Moore; Peter O'Neill; Joe & Irene Pezzuti; Bill Pinchback; Rohland Reich; Joe Sico; Anita Topnick; James Wills; Margaret Zanin, **may God's healing grace be theirs.** ♦**For Our Military Serving in Iraq:** James Kodak; Gerard Johnson, **protect them all from harm.** ♦**For the Deceased:** Thomas Nchotu, **may he rest in peace.** Names will be placed on our prayer list for three weeks. To add a name or to request continuing prayers, please contact Jef McConnell by phone at 301-459-4814 ext 201 or by email at [jmccconnell@stmatthias.org](mailto:jmccconnell@stmatthias.org).

### Outdoor Parish Shrines: Memorials and Tributes:

The votive lights burning from July 12<sup>th</sup> through July 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Shrine of the Sacred Heart

For the Special Intentions of: The Ferrara Family; John DeMaio on the occasion of his birthday.

For the Happy Repose of: Victor Sanchez

#### Shrine of the Madonna & Child

For the Intentions of: Dennis George.

For the Happy Repose of: Carmen Velasco.

### A Child Speaks



A mother was teaching her three-year-old The Lord's Prayer. As the child was ready to solo, the mother listened right up to the end. 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us some e-mail'.