

From The Pastor

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

More often than not when I misplace something that I use daily and need for some aspect of my life or work I come to find the thing in the end right under my nose! All that time searching and it was right there in front of me. I suspect you've done the same thing too! Looking for your reading glasses and you seemingly can't find them anywhere in your home or office? While hunting them down you catch sight of yourself in a mirror and there it is...your reflection reveals the glasses sitting atop your head the entire time you feared the worst...they were lost forever. Lost your cell phone or car keys? Then after searching all over you stick your hand in your coat or trouser pockets and there are the keys or cell phone.

As we continue to read from the sixth chapter of St. John's gospel... the crowds of 5,000 had their fill of bread and fish and after a period of listening to Jesus and resting, they grow hungry again and want Jesus to give them a sign. St. John carefully chooses the word sign versus the other gospels which utilize the word miracle. A sign is meant to reveal who Jesus is, and the crowd had just been given a sign: it was Jesus himself standing before them revealing who He was through the sign of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. Food was the great symbol of their ongoing hunger...a hunger never to be satisfied here on earth but completely fulfilled in Christ in His Kingdom of Heaven. We are often no different from that crowd of 5,000. We hunger too, and Jesus Christ himself literally comes to us at each and every Mass in the form of bread and wine changed into His Body and Blood to fill us with His very self, so that by His grace we can see Him and acknowledge Him as our Lord and God.

Are you looking for Jesus? Are you hungry? Our search for God can run the risk of falling into a meaningless journey through a desert. We ourselves get lost in the world's temptations and promises. We wrongly think that God's work is static rather than dynamic; predictable rather than surprising; routine rather than extraordinary. Lost. Confused. Hungry. All these conditions can make us fail to see our God and our Savior standing right in front of us every day here in the Mass where bread is still multiplied for the crowds and we come to see and experience Christ who has always been right in front of us. We just keep searching in all the wrong places!

Volunteer Opportunities Abound! In preparation for our upcoming Jubilee Year, I am currently searching for talented and organized people who would organize our parish archival documents; identifying and labeling parish historical photos by date and subject matter placing the information into acid free albums. Do you have photographs of the church and school being structures being built? Do you have photos of special events in our first fifty years? Pictures of notable parishioners doing outstanding acts of service or Christian kindness? Please search your own photo albums for St. Matthias memorabilia of any sort and a) consider donating it to our parish archives or b) lending it to us for a brief period so that copies of photos can be made and originals returned to you.

Letter From Father Raymond Collins: Dear Father Jeff and Parishioners: Thanks so much for making mention of my Golden Jubilee in the parish bulletin. My 13 years of association with St. Matthias is approximately one quarter of the years of my priestly ministry. How much was I sustained by the parishioners of St. Matthias. Thanks to you and the parish for the generous gift, which I will share with my seminary, The American College of Louvain, and the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.
Sincerely Father (Ray) Collins

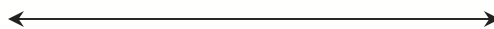


Stewardship Report: Revenue



July 26 th :	7,379.06
Faith Direct:	1,597.75
Total Offertory:	8,976.81
Last Year:	8,345.25
Poor Box:	191.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	84.80

Number of Adult Envelopes: 198
Number of Children's Envelopes: 7
Number of Faith Direct donors: 45
Number of Registered Households: 668



- Forward In Faith Progress Report as of the Second Quarter:** Parishioner gifts to Archdiocesan Forward in Faith Campaign benefit not only the Archdiocese, but our own parish as well. Collected to date from our parish is: **\$746,769.66**. We receive **20%** of the first \$600,000 totaling: **\$120,000**. Everything over \$600,000 we receive **50%** totaling: **\$73,385**. ~ **Distribution to date: \$189,383** ~ We recently received a check in the amount of **\$4,002.00!** Thank you to all of our generous parishioners who have completed payments on their pledges large and small. If you haven't made a payment on your pledge, please do so now if resources permits. 50% of what we raise now returns directly to the parish.
- Mass Intentions:** Many parishioners are aware how quickly our Mass schedule fills with requests for particular intentions. If you desire to have a Mass offered on the anniversary date of the death of your loved one, relative, or friend, please think ahead and arrange for your Mass **at least three months in advance!** If the date for the Mass intention is not crucial, you may make your arrangements at any time. Requests for particular dates are taken on a first come, first serve basis. Mass intentions (that you see published weekly in the bulletin) may be offered for someone who is deceased, for the intentions of someone who is living and perhaps ill or in special need, or for a special occasion like a birthday or a wedding anniversary. An offering of \$10 is suggested for each Mass intention requested, and the offering must be made at the time Mass is scheduled. Cards are available to send to a grieving family or to someone living for their intentions. Please stop by the rectory offices during business hours to schedule your intention and to select your card.
- A Stewardship Moment:** The crowd in today's Gospel demanded a sign of Jesus and wanted to know what "work" He did to inspire their faith. May our faithful stewardship be a sign to other that we, like the Ephesians in the second reading, have laid aside our former way of Life and acquired a "fresh, spiritual way of thinking" in Christ.

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*days remaining until our parish celebrates its
Golden Jubilee...the 50th Anniversary
of our beginning as a Catholic parish
in the Archdiocese of Washington.
Saint Matthias, pray that our efforts to celebrate
this milestone will bring glory
to Christ Jesus the Lord! Amen.*

*Erected as a Catholic parish on
June 18, 1960*

Faith Formation:

Registration is ongoing for the 2009-2010 year, our Golden Jubilee anniversary. If you are new to the parish, please stop by the office during regular hours to pick up a form. Thanks to those who have already registered. Early registration goes a long way to cut down on cost of books for us. If you are already in the program, you should have registered by now and therefore will have to pay the late fee of \$25.00 per family. The letters you received in June clearly stipulated the conditions for registration. The good news is the fees remain the same – the parish will continue to subsidize the formation of our young parishioners.

For the sake of your children, do remember that faith formation is an ongoing process and does not end after the celebration of a sacrament. We can assist you to form your child only if you play your part by registering them. All children, ages 5 and above who are currently not attending Catholic schools must register for faith formation. ***If your child is 9 years and above and has not received his or her First Communion please notify the Director of Faith Formation as soon as possible.*** Remember, you **have to be registered** before you can be placed in a class.

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Still wondering what has become of the special session with the little ones during the 9:30 a.m. Mass? As sad as it may sound, there were not enough volunteers who could commit to the training by the Archdiocese of Washington. Understandably, everyone is busy... but I do believe that both you and I are aware of the importance of teaching our little ones the Catholic Faith. We can continue with this formation if we could get 8 adults and young adults. Think about it, these are the very ones who will be making major decisions affecting us in our old age. How do we want them to be formed - by the media and popular culture or by the teachings of the Church?

Rite of Christian Initiative of Adults (RCIA)

Registration for RCIA is done separately. Please contact the office for Faith Formation for the necessary papers. Sessions will be held on **Tuesday evenings** from 7:00 p.m.– 8:15 p.m. Our first session will be held on Tuesday, September 22nd, 2009 in the Faculty Lounge. Please call Dorothy Mensah-Aggrey at 301-459-4814 x 205 for more information. It is preferred that prospective candidates register prior to the start date.

Items of Note

Please take note: All parish organizations should be aware that Friendship Hall will be unavailable for use for 2 weeks starting August 1st through August 15th so that maintenance crews can clean, strip and wax the floors. NO ACTIVITIES will be scheduled during those 2 weeks. We regret any inconvenience. Please contact Jef in the rectory if you have any questions.

Jesus Needs Altar Servers!: St. Matthias is holding an “Introductory Orientation” for altar serving for students starting in 4th Grade (as of the Fall) through adults of any age, on Tuesday August 18th from 7 to 8pm in the church. No experience is 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@atellerarchitects.com or Martin Kwapinski 301-459-4508 nartub.jwaoubsju@gsa.gov.

School Summer Hours Open House: Beginning Monday August 3rd, school office hours will be Monday through Thursday 9am to 3pm and Fridays 9am to 1pm. The school will have an informal Open House Thursday August 27th from 9am to 12pm. The school will be closed Friday August 28th and Monday August 31st with classes beginning Tuesday September 1st.

Chairs! Chairs! And More Chairs!!! A reminder that we still have available a limited number of chairs at cost of \$10.00 a chair. Contact Jef McConnell at the rectory for more information and availability. Your support is always needed and welcomed.

SCHOOL RAFFLE WINNER

Congratulations to **Nelson and Sheila Grillo** of Bowie, Maryland (winner and seller of \$350) of this week's ticket!



Mass Intentions Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, August 3

8:30 am Anita Topnick

Tuesday, August 4: John Mary Vianney, priest

8:30 am The Archdiocese of Washington Priest

Wednesday, August 5: Dedication of the Basilica

8:30 am Reverend Leslie A. Branch

Thursday, August 6: Transfiguration of the Lord

8:30 am Lois Eileen Monaco

Friday, August 7: Sixtus II, pope & martyr

8:30 am Adeline Yeager

First Friday—Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday, August 8: Dominic, priest

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

Vigil – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 pm Intentions of Joey Martinez

Sunday, August 9: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Harold Parrish

9:30 am Intentions of Esmerando Juanitez (birthday)

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

Please pray for: ♦The Sick and Homebound In Our

Parish: Stephen Adamczyk; Khephen Andrews; Ann Benson; Mary Bittner; Margaret Brooks; Audrey Brown; Alice Campbell; Eleanor DeMarco; Rose Dickerson; Elizabeth Drako; Denis George; Helen Guditis; Charles Henry; Lena Jacobs; Tyler Johnson; Elizabeth Kin; Ray Krok; Zelmer LaFavers; Elizabeth Lancon; Joe Makowski; Willie (Bill) Moore; Rosemarie Narvozzi; Peter O'Neill; Joe & Irene Pezzuti; Bill Pinchback; Rohland Reich; Sam Spell; Teresa Staronka; Joe Sico; James Wills;

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: Cheryl Aitcheson; Elizabeth Irene Ervin; Gertrude J. Monaco; Helen Okolo; Reverend Thomas S. Schaefer; **may they 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 jmcconnell@stmatthias.org.

Outdoor Parish Shrines; Memorials and Tributes:

The votive lights burning from **July 26th** through August 1st

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

For the Special Intentions of: Anthony Amanyeiwe

For the Happy Repose of: Dr. Francis P. Griffith

Shrine of the Madonna & Child

For the Intentions of: Dennis George; and for Rosemary

Love Thy Sibling As You Love Yourself



A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to “honor thy father and thy mother”. she asked, “is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters? A boy quickly answered, “Thou shall not kill”.