

Reflections on Scripture

We are now in the eighth month of an election year in which we have been subjected to months of campaign rhetoric and promises from the candidates. Each candidate assures us that everyone will benefit if he is elected. No candidate would dare suggest to any group of people that it might have to make some sacrifices after his election or suggest raising taxes for certain income levels. These are sure ways to lose.

When reading the gospels, it is clear that Jesus was not acquainted with campaign rhetoric. He promises plenty, but always at a price. Discipleship is not offered as a "freebie." When He says, "You can only be my disciple if you take up your cross each day," the crowd would start thinning out. However, hundreds of generations have taken Jesus at his word and have not been disappointed.

These words of Jesus are in face regarded as signature Jesus, remembered by his disciples as a summation of our Lord's teaching. They offer solace and support and are a treasure of wisdom, preparing us for life. Jesus was not big on making rules and laws. Jesus offers only two commandments: love of God with one's whole being and love of neighbor as oneself.

Instead of new legislation, what Jesus aimed at was the formation of proper attitudes towards God, oneself, other human beings and all of God's creation. Jesus knew that to achieve proper behavior, forming the proper attitude is far more effective than making more laws. Motivation is more successful than legislation in many instances. Sin is not a violation of a rule, but a renunciation of one's vocation and calling. This attitude corresponds to the biblical notion of sin as "missing the mark."

What attitude is Jesus promoting when he talks about taking up one's cross? It is simply that life is not easy, nor is it meant to be. The worst disservice we can do to our children is to give them the impression that life is easy. In our technological age, many of life's drudgeries have been eliminated. Can you imagine a time when cows were milked by hand? Or when lawn mowers were push powered? Or when washing machines were turned by hand? People didn't have to join gyms to keep their weight down. As one disease after another is eliminated, we can imagine a world with without many of the illnesses that afflict us. These advances leave us with the impression that life without hardships or challenges is not only desirable, but possible. Why shouldn't we strive for such a life?

Jesus' message about the inevitability of suffering is not the complete message. Jesus does not promise to eliminate the hardships, but to give us the courage to face them. Jesus does not promise to take away life's burdens but to develop our character to become strong enough to carry them. Jesus does not promise to take away all tears and sadness from our lives, but he teaches us to appreciate the benefits and blessings that we too often take for granted. All of our Lord's rhetoric is aimed at one goal: to get us to manifest by our lives the divine image in which we were created.

As we continue the celebration of the Eucharist, we look forward not just to receiving the host, but to uniting with our host in our mind and hearts and lives.



Stewardship Report:



Revenue

August 18:	7,468.22
Faith Direct:	1,286.25
Total Offertory:	8,754.47
Last Year:	9,277.27
Poor Box:	91.45
Every Penny Counts Box:	127.41

Number of Adult Envelopes: 220
Number of Children's Envelopes: 4
Number of Faith Direct donors: 34
Number of Registered Households: 625

August 25:	9,030.94
Faith Direct:	1,286.25
Total Offertory:	10,317.19
Last Year:	9,355.45
Poor Box:	462.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	80.16

Number of Adult Envelopes: 134
Number of Children's Envelopes: 6
Number of Faith Direct donors: 34
Number of Registered Households: 625

◆ **Second Collection:** Our second collection *next week* will be for our regular **Building and Maintenance Fund**. This monthly collection enables us to make continuing repairs, upkeep and improvements to the parish and school buildings as well as our parish grounds. May we suggest a contribution of \$10 per household? Better yet! Match Father Jeff's \$20 contribution!

Congrats to our Raffle Winners!

Monday, August 18th Drawing:

Winner & Seller: Karin Sellers of Lanham, MD

Monday, August 25th Drawing:

Winner: Connie Osborne of New Palestine, Indiana

Seller: Anthony Verna of Lanham, MD

SCHOOL & RECTORY OFFICES CLOSED ON MONDAY FOR LABOR DAY!

Help WANTED!

The school is in need of volunteers to assist teachers and students in the classrooms. Volunteers are also needed to assist with clerical duties. If you can help, please contact the school principal: Mrs. Wilson at 301-577-9412 ext. 214

Votive Lights

Sunday, August 31st through
Saturday, September 6:

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

For the Special Intentions of:

Jerry Defayette for favor received
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Ferrara
Greg George in thanksgiving

Shrine of the Madonna & Child:

For the Special Intentions of:

Joan George on the occasion of her birthday
"Special Intention"

Faith Formation:

Catechist Training: Calling all current catechists and would-be catechists!! We will have our Annual Catechist Training on **Saturday, September 6th from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm in the school library.** The Archdiocesan policies and guidelines will be discussed as well as planning charts for teaching the faith. You will be fed spiritually and physically.

Children's Liturgy: If you interested in becoming a leader for Children's Liturgy, please call Eileen Leach at 301-552-2906 or join us any Sunday at the 9:30 am to see what it is all about. Leaders are usually scheduled about once a month. We want you to join us to help celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with the children of our parish during the 9:30 am Mass on Sundays throughout the school year. Children between Kindergarten and 5th grade gather to have the readings of the day discussed at an age appropriate level in the library/classroom during the homily. We would love to have you as a leader to share your time, talents and treasures with the children of our parish. Please join us at the Catechist training session

Registration for Faith Formation: Your child will be placed in a class only when the proper registration is completed. Due to the Archdiocese of Washington's Child Protection Policies, each child must be fully registered in order to participate in faith formation. There are some registration forms in the Pamphlet rack at the back of the church, or you may stop by the office to pick up forms.

Remember if a child misses a year of faith formation, he/she will have to repeat that year in order to move ahead. Moving on to a higher level is not automatic. We have to hand down our faith in a responsible manner and "wholesale promotion" does not cut it; only the best should be good enough for our children.

Classes for Faith Formation for the year 2008-2009 will begin on Monday, September 22 at 6:30 pm in Friendship Hall.

RCIA: Have you ever wondered if you could truly and competently share your faith or even explain the basic tenets of the Catholic faith to others? Do you feel comfortable with your current level of knowledge of the Catholic faith? Do you know of anyone who is still seeking Christ and the truth and power of His resurrection? Come, find out more at our first session of RCIA on Tuesday, September 23 at 7:00 pm in the School library. The Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is tailored to address such needs.

Young Adult Ministry: If you were at last week's 9:30 am mass you heard Fr. Jeff pose challenging questions to us about the depth of our faith. The Young Adult Ministry exists within the Church for this very purpose... to help us journey together as Catholic Christians. One of our young adults, Julie Ibebuchi has worked tirelessly in bringing this ministry here to St. Matthias. Join us on **Sunday, September 7 after the 9:30 am Mass** for our first meeting just to find out how beneficial this will be to our growth in the faith we profess. The meeting will be held in the **School library.**

Baptism: Parents seeking to have their infants baptized should take note that one must be a registered, participating/contributing member of this parish for a minimum of 6 months. Also prior registration for the sacrament of baptism is required; call the office of Faith Formation at 301-459-4814 x 205. A seminar is held on the first Wednesday of the month prior to baptisms which are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month after the 11:30 am mass.

Other Sacraments: Please direct all questions to Dorothy Mensah-Aggrey at 301-459-4814 x 205. Preparations for the sacraments differ one from the other.



Mass Intentions for the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, September 1: Labor Day

SCHOOL AND RECTORY CLOSED: LABOR DAY

8:30 am Rev. Msgr. James B. Joy

Tuesday, September 2

FIRST DAY OF CLASS FOR OUR SCHOOL

8:30 am Ndudi Ogbechie

Wednesday, September 3: Gregory the Great, pope

8:30 am Joe Harrison

Thursday, September 4

8:30 am Mary Farley

Friday, September 5: Bl. Teresa of Calcutta

8:30 am Rollin Lasseter

Saturday, Sept 6: Vigil – Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

5:00 pm Margaret Cuthbert

Sunday, Sept 7: Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Joe Rubenstahl (Living)

9:30 am Fr. Leman Fournier

11:30am Benefactors of our Parish & School

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

Virgie Azarcon; Barbara Brink; Audrey Brown; Linda Bryans; Fidel dela Cuesta; Lisa Cuthbert; Eleanor DeMarco; Rosita Dietrich; Lisa Farland; Karen Fisher; Jose Guevara; Joseph Harrison; Charles Henry; Robert Hoke; Anne Mbimi Ifouini; Charles Jones; Paula Kelly; Robyn Kirby; Laura Elaine Kiessler; Nancy Maimone; Joe Makowski; Albertine Mandzo; Luke Martellotti; Bob Martin; Willie (Bill) Moore; Bernadette Murphy; Larry Murphy; Rosemarie Nardozi; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Thomas Opalski; Joseph Otero; Alice Parker; Dawn Pearson; Evelyn Pierce; John Rampone; Jose Ocasio Rodriguez; Joe Sico; Marian C. Wahle; Judy Widdis; Jean Zanin; Ryan Zawada †**For Our Military Serving in Afghanistan or Iraq:** Spc. Michael J. Chiddo; Ryan A. Morgan †**For Our Deceased:** Janie B. Taylor †*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.*

Youth News:

Calling all Teens 14 to 17: Are you looking for something new, fun and different? Do you often ask yourself questions about other teens, their cultures? What do they do for recreation? Do they struggle in class and how to get help? Do you need to brush up on your social skills? Ever been questioned about what you believe? The Saint Matthias Youth Group is for you! It's that time of year again registration for Youth Group will take place Friday September 5 in Friendship Hall from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Cost is 80.00 for one teen, 150.00 for two and 180.00 for three and above. Please contact Mrs. Moore at ext. 204 for information.

Youth Concert: Youth Group will sponsor a concert on November 11th, titled "An Evening of Thanksgiving and Praise". Calling all voices ages 14 and up, we will have a Teen/ Young Adult choir a Mass choir which will include our two guest choirs and a guest Dance Ministry and of course our own Dance Ministry! The first rehearsal will be announced in next week's bulletin. Come and pray twice with us.