

## Reflections on the Gospel

**“The whole of our existence, the whole of our lives should  
cry the gospel from the rooftops...  
not by our words, but by our lives.”**

Charles de Foucauld  
Explorer &

Inspiration for the Little Brothers and Little Sisters of the Poor

How often have we asked, “Why did God do this? Why is God punishing me? Why does God allow wars and natural disasters and car accidents or anything that causes us to suffer?” Are we being punished for the sins of our ancestors? Ezekiel tells us a resounding “NO” to this last question. It is very easy to blame God for our suffering, but our suffering is often the consequence of our own actions. God’s will is not that we suffer but that we be converted. In a sense today’s gospel reading picks up this same idea of conversion, especially in our actions.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul encouraged the early Christians to live in solidarity and service: “...complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart...Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus.” So we are told to live like Christ, thinking as he would think, acting as he would act. That doesn’t necessarily mean going to Nazareth or to the desert. Right here in our parish, in our neighborhoods, in our families, we are called to live in solidarity and service, with the mind of Christ.

How will we do this? Most of us will be called in less than dramatic ways. When I pick up my clothes instead of leaving them for mom to pick up; when I do the dishes or make my bed without being asked; when I let someone with just a few groceries go ahead of me in the check out line; when I smile at a harried clerk; when I give an honest compliment someone isn’t expecting— all of these are simple things that we can do so easily if we are attentive. All of these are living with the mind of Jesus.

Perhaps for most of us, just being attentive this way is the most difficult part. We are so busy, so preoccupied, so focused on our own agenda that we need deliberately to be aware of others and their needs. Sometimes it is easier to put a hand in our wallet or purse and pull out a little money to put in the extra collection in church or the poor box than it is to give a little of our own time and interest. But how can we live in solidarity and service if we are not aware? How can we cry the gospel from the rooftops with our lives if we aren’t aware of others?

Here in the Eucharist, we tell God many good things. We say we are sorry for our sins. We say that we believe. We offer ourselves with the gifts of bread and wine. We wish each other peace. Today, let us be more aware of what we are doing and saying. Let us mean what we believe; let us really offer ourselves, let us wish each other peace from the heart, and let us show it by how we live. Let us go out into that vineyard to do the work our Heavenly Father asks of us.



## Stewardship Report:



### Revenue

<b>September 21:</b>	<b>8,649.47</b>
<b>Faith Direct:</b>	<b>1,321.25</b>
<b>Total Offertory:</b>	<b>9,970.72</b>
<b>Last Year:</b>	<b>10,579.16</b>
<b>Poor Box:</b>	<b>55.06</b>
<b>Every Penny Counts Box:</b>	<b>40.14</b>

Number of Adult Envelopes: 269

Number of Children’s Envelopes: 10

Number of Faith Direct donors: 36

Number of Registered Households: 630

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**Second Collection: Church in Africa:** Our second collection *this week* is for the Church in Africa which is the fastest growing part of the Universal Church and, at the same time, the neediest part of our faith family. It is spiritually rich, but desperately poor and the Church on that vast continent needs our support to meet both its current needs and to realize its enormous potential.



### **Did you receive your offertory envelopes for October, November & December?**

Quarterly offertory envelopes should have arrived in your mailbox! If you did not receive your envelopes, please contact Tara in the rectory at 301-459-4814 or email her at [tguevara@stmatthias.org](mailto:tguevara@stmatthias.org). Also, don’t forget to sign up for **FAITH DIRECT!** It is an easy way to make your offertory contributions and support our parish! For information and forms, please contact Tara in the rectory.



**Every Penny Counts:** Donate your loose change to the “Every Penny Counts” Box which provides funding for the annual Father E. Albert Hughes Scholarship awards. These scholarship awards are given in the form of tuition assistance to deserving children and youth from our parish enrolled at St. Matthias School or a Catholic High School of the Archdiocese of Washington. Together our pennies, nickels, and dimes can make a difference by assisting someone in need with a Catholic education!



## Votive Lights

**Sunday, September 28th through  
Saturday, October 4th:**



### Shrine of the Sacred Heart

#### **For the Special Intentions of:**

Madeline White; Becca & Kyle Falls; Dennis A. George  
& Jose Guevara

#### **For the Happy Repose of:**

M/M Paul & Rita Kelly & M/M Matvei & Stella Lapitsky

### Shrine of the Madonna & Child:

#### **For the Special Intentions of:**

Fran Zatorski; Helen Zatorski; The Ferrara Family; Timothy George, Jr.  
& Jackie George on the occasion of her Birthday

#### **For the Happy Repose of:**

Stella Lapitsky; Deacon Jerry Tintle; M/M Paul & Rita Kelly

## Faith Formation:

### Classes Have Begun!

- **Faith Formation** classes began last Monday. There are still children who need to be in Faith Formation who are not there. Please don't wait till your child is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade before contacting us...join our program now!
- **RCIA** classes have also begun. We will meet in the Faculty Lounge on Tuesdays at 7pm. If you are Catholic and not sure of doctrinal issues, or, just want to learn more of your faith, RCIA will answer many of your questions. Do you have a non-Catholic family member or friend seeking the truth? Ask them to check out RCIA. We will meet on a weekly basis barring holidays and Holy Days of obligation.
- **Young Adult Ministry** At the meeting held on Monday, September 22nd, a decision was made to meet every other week. Young Adult Ministry (YAM) is for college age students through twenty- somethings who seek to deepen their faith. We will meet in the Faculty Lounge next Monday, October 6th at 7:00 p.m.

**Parent Meeting:** There will be a general meeting for all parents involved in Faith Formation on Monday, October 6 at 6:45 p.m. Please drop off your child as usual and stay on for the meeting. This is a very important meeting and I hope to see all of you there. **Please bring your Bible along and also bring a snack to share.** *If the church mouse does not pilfer all the cheese in hiding, we may have some cheese and... come and find out!*

## Youth News:

**Youth Concert Updates:** Youth Group will sponsor a concert on **November 23<sup>rd</sup>** titled **"An Evening of Thanksgiving and Praise."** All rehearsals will take place in the church on Sundays from 3:00 to 4:30pm. Rehearsal dates are September 28<sup>th</sup>, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and November 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. The concert will feature various in house and guest choirs and dance ministries. Teens and Young Adults, if you have something to be thankful for then come join us. It is said that when you sing you are praying twice! Contact Mrs. Moore 301-459-4814 at ext 204 or Mrs. Zita Givens 301-451-8394.

## Other Items of Note:

**Music Ministry:** All singers are welcome to join our choirs! No experience is necessary and we have many musical choirs to choose from. Instrumentalists are encouraged to contact Regina Loffredo.

- Traditional Choir, contact Regina Loffredo at 301-464-9193
- Youth Choir, contact Regina Loffredo at 301-464-9193– rehearsals begin on Thursday October 2nd in Friendship Hall
- Filipino Choir, contact Nenita Richardson at 301-464-3137
- African Choir, contact Dorothy Mensah-Aggrey at 301-459-4814

**Fall Festival and Flea Market:** Mark your calendars for Saturday October 11th from 9am until 2pm. Festival Activities include games, crafts, food, square dancing and more! Flea Market spaces are available for \$25 per space. Support our parish and school by donating your new and gently used items to our sale table. For additional information, please contact Misty Oratokhai at 410-286-0396.



## Mass Intentions for the Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

### Monday, September 29:

8:30 am Michael Joseph Amanyeiwe (living)

### Tuesday, September 30:

8:30 am Helen Pielmeier

### Wednesday, October 1:

8:30 am Stella Sylak Lapitsky

### Thursday, October 2:

8:30 am Scholastica Boberick

### Friday, October 3:

8:30 am Mary Donohue

### Sat., Oct 4: Vigil – Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

**3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions**

5:00 pm Sinforosa Sanchez

### Sunday, Oct 5: Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Betty West

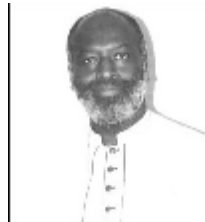
9:30 am Emmanuel Amanyeiwe (in special thanksgiving)

11:30am Peter Fonju

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

Phil Ates; Virgie Azarcon; Barbara Brink; Audrey Brown; Linda Bryans; Fidel dela Cuesta; Eleanor DeMarco; Rosita Dietrich; Jerry Edwards; Lisa Farland; Karen Fisher; Francis Greenfield; Joseph Harrison; Charles Henry; Lena Jacobs; Anne Mbimi Ifouini; Charles Jones; Paula Kelly; Robyn Kirby; Laura Elaine Kiessling; 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; Jose Ocasio Rodriguez; Joe Sico; Walter Stewart; Jean Zanin; Ryan Zawada †**For Our Military Serving in Afghanistan or Iraq:** Spc. Michael J. Chiddo †**For Our Deceased:** Robert "Ted" Hoke †*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).*

## Archbishop of Accra (Ghana) to Concelebrate Mass



Archbishop Gabriel Charles Palmer-Buckle, Catholic Metropolitan Archbishop of Accra (Ghana) will be visiting our parish on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. He will be here with Rev. Fr. Samuel Batsa to concelebrate the 11:30 a.m. mass with Fr. Jeff. All are invited. There will be a brief reception in Friendship Hall after mass. Please join us in welcoming him to our Parish!

Archbishop Palmer –Buckle was born on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1950 and ordained priest on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1976. He was ordained bishop of Koforidua, Ghana on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1993 by Pope John Paul II in Rome. On May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005 he was elevated as Archbishop of Accra. He loves to sing and dance as well as teach! He will be visiting some family friends in the area and therefore taking the opportunity to visit St. Matthias.