

Reflections on the Gospel

One of humanity's greatest weaknesses is the tendency to have a very short and selective memory. The wealthy and influential person from poor and humble beginnings may try to erase his or her past. One who benefitted from the compassion and charity of others can become selfish and demanding. And the children and grandchildren of immigrants may become the most strident advocates of rigid and harsh policies towards aliens dwelling in our country.

Memory is so very important: who we are, where we came from, what we experienced. Most of the admonitions about the treatment of others are expressions of the Golden Rule. An essential part of the Golden Rule or loving our neighbor is to avoid treating others in any way that we ourselves would not want to be treated. In today's first reading, God warns the Israelites to remember that they were slaves in Egypt. Remember what it felt like to be helpless and oppressed, despised and abused. Remember, and don't do the same thing to others.

The Book of Exodus expresses in detail what some of those hateful things might be and more directly what it means to show love in action. Not mistreating widows and orphans or those vulnerable and marginalized, is at the core of the covenant with God. We must not oppress or grind down the poor in any way, but treat them as we would want to be treated.

In the context of increased instances of mistreatment and persecution of illegal immigrants, we might remember that most of our ancestors also came from other countries and struggled to make a new life. Whatever political solutions are enacted with regard to this difficult issue, we should never forget that the vast majority of the aliens dwelling in our land are people like us, driven by economic need and should be treated with kindness and understanding.

A tremendous amount of power can be packed into a deceptively simple word, phrase or formula. The more profound and powerful principles are seemingly simple in their expression, but they must be understood and applied.

Rabbi Hillel, a contemporary of Jesus, converted a pagan who challenged him to explain his religion while standing on one foot. The rabbi, standing on one foot, replied: "That which is hateful unto you do not do to your neighbor. This is the whole of the Torah. The rest is commentary."

When Jesus was asked which of the commandments was greatest, he could have launched in a lengthy theological discussion complete with precedents and commentaries, and his words would have been lost. Instead, he reached far back into Jewish tradition, first citing the book of Deuteronomy: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Then he adds from the Book of Leviticus: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

By saying that this commandment is like the first, Jesus forged an unbreakable link between love of God and love of neighbor. Living our faith means expressing love in every aspect of human activity including in the life of the church. This is a positive expression of the Golden Rule.

Love is the essence of all healthy religion. It is simple, but not easy, and people often run from its demands by making God's primal commandment incredibly complicated. **Through our thoughts, words and deeds, we must rescue love from superficiality and restore it to its rightful role as a powerful force that can transform our planet.**



Stewardship Report:



Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| October 12: | 8,387.24 |
| Faith Direct: | 1,609.25 |
| Total Offertory: | 9,996.49 |
| Last Year: | 9,539.50 |
| Poor Box: | 218.50 |
| Every Penny Counts Box: | 85.60 |

Number of Adult Envelopes: 316
Number of Children's Envelopes: 13
Number of Faith Direct donors: 36
Number of Registered Households: 630

Expenses

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Paper Goods (school & church): | 1,252.06 |
| Extended warranty for computers: | 5,415.30 |
| McKay Church Goods (misc): | 2,532.75 |
| Total Expenses: | 9,199.81 |

◆ **All Souls Day Envelopes:** All Souls Day envelopes with the names of



the deceased members of your family and friends are to be submitted to the rectory no later than **TODAY Sunday, October 26th** in order for their names to be read aloud at one of the Masses during the course of November. Please place your envelopes in the collection basket or drop them through the mail slot at the rectory office. A minimum offering of \$10 is suggested.

Fall Festival & Flea Market: Our sincere thanks again to Misty Oratokhai for serving as the Chairperson and Coordinator for our School and Parish Fall Festival and Flea Market and special thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped make this event a success! Your generous sharing of time and talent is deeply appreciated. The festival this year generated **\$1,424.00 in profit!** Thanks to everyone who came out to support our school and parish!



Votive Lights

Sunday, October 26th through
Saturday, November 1st:

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

For the Special Intentions of:

Bo & Ferris George

For the Happy Repose of:

Mike & Stella Lapitsky

John J. Wahle

Roy Patrick Wahle

Shrine of the Madonna & Child:

For the Special Intentions of:

The Ferrara Family

Sophia Lillian DeMaio on the occasion of her birthday

For the Happy Repose of:

Jose & Romilia Guevara

Annual Mass of Remembrance



A part of our parish commemoration of All Souls we will have our **Annual Mass of Remembrance** for all those who died this past year from our Parish community. **This Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, November 1st at 5:00pm.** Personal letters of invitation have been sent to the immediate survivor(s) of our recently deceased parishioners asking them to join us that evening.

Faith Formation:

Faith Formation Classes: Have you registered your child for Faith Formation (formerly called CCD) classes? Classes have begun and you have just a few more weeks to join us. Registration will end on October 27. Be advised that if you pull your child out for any number of years, when they return to the program they will be placed in the grade in which they should have been had they been registered.

Mandatory First Reconciliation Parent Meeting: There will be a meeting on Monday, November 3 at 6:45 p.m. in Friendship Hall for *all parents* whose children will be celebrating First Reconciliation and First Communion. Please drop off your child as usual, and just stay on for the meeting. Books will be distributed at this meeting. This is a parent only meeting and is required for parents of both Faith Formation class children and St. Matthias school children.

Young Adult Ministry: This ministry meets every other Monday and is studying the Acts of the Apostles. All young adults in the parish are encouraged to participate in this Bible Study to increase their knowledge of the Catholic view of interpreting the Bible. Meetings are held in the School Faculty Lounge beginning at 7:00 pm and last for an hour.

Baptism: Families must be registered members of St. Matthias the Apostle for a period of six months before any sacraments will be administered, including that of Baptism. It is the responsibility of parents and not the Church to ensure that this requirement is fulfilled. As a parent you owe it to your child to practice the faith you profess and not just to come in when you need another mark on your "faith report card". Children observe a lot and know when you teach one thing and practice another. In the long run, it is the child who is hurt... bear that in mind.

Other Items of Note:

Christmas in April: This annual one day project seeks to repair the homes of those who due to age, disability and financial hardships, cannot do the work themselves. Skilled and unskilled volunteers give six to eight hours of service to help with repairs. This is a non-profit organization supported entirely by voluntary contributions of time and money. If you would like to make a donation, volunteer your time or if you know of a homeowner in need, please contact Tara in the rectory or visit their website at www.christmasinaprilpg.org for more information. Applications are due on November 1st for homeowners wishing to partake in the project. The work will be scheduled on **April 25, 2009**.

Tootsie Roll Campaign: The Knights of Columbus will be conducting their annual fundraiser to assist the mentally and developmentally disabled on Sunday October 26th and November 2nd. On these 2 Sundays, the KOC will give out tootsie roll candy to children after each Mass while asking parents to donate money to the program. The KOC has no business affiliation with the candy company, and the candy is free and not for sale. The candy is used to call the attention of the parents to the need to support to this worthy cause, and any individual may make a donation to the program. 100% of the money raised will go to Rehabilitation Opportunity, INC in Lanham, MD. Please be generous and support this program to help the disabled members of our own community.



Trick Or Treat!

Calling all trick or treaters: please drop by the priests' residence and the convent on Halloween night, Friday October 31st between the hours of 4pm and 7:30pm for plenty of tasty treats. Please, no devils or ghouls or frightening creatures!



Mass Intentions for the Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, October 27:

8:30 am Alphonse T. Migneco

Tuesday, October 28: Simon & Jude, apostles

8:30 am Rita Kelly

Wednesday, October 29:

8:30 am Antonio Martinez (living)

Thursday, October 30:

8:30 am Gayle Pollock

Friday, October 31:

8:30 am Susanna Martinez

Trick or Treating: Convent & Rectory (4pm-7:30pm)

Sat., Nov 1: All Saints Day & Vigil – All Souls Day

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

5:00 pm **Mass of Remembrance**

Sunday, Nov 2: All Souls Day

8:00 am All Souls

9:30 am Severino Santos and All Souls

11:30am Mr. & Mrs. Aggrey (living) and All Souls

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

Phil Ates; Virgie Azarcon; Ann Benson; Barbara Brink; Audrey Brown; Linda Bryans; Fidel dela Cuesta; Eleanor DeMarco; Rosita Dietrich; Jerry Edwards; Lisa Farland; Don Falls; Karen Fisher; Francis Greenfield; Leslie Hand; Joseph Harrison; Charles Henry; Lena Jacobs; Anne Mbimi Ifouini; Charles Jones; Rev. Patrick Keeny; Paula Kelly; Robyn Kirby; Laura Elaine Kiessling; Ray Krok; 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; Judy Widdis; Margaret Zanin; Ryan Zawada **†For Our Military Serving in Afghanistan or Iraq:** Spc. Michael J. Chiddo **†For Our Deceased:** Anna Csmos; Luzelle Schwartz; Mary Elizabeth Wood **†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:

"An Evening of Thanksgiving and Praise." Please join our Youth Group on Sunday November 23rd for this wonderful production sponsored by Willie (Bill) and Donna Moore featuring youth choirs, dance ministries and guests! We look forward to sharing a wonderful evening with you. Free will offerings are joyfully accepted. Youth wishing to participate in this event should contact Mrs. Donna Stewart-Moore at 301-459-4814 for additional information.

World Chastity Day: Our youth recently attended this annual event along with youth from parishes throughout the area. Please look in future bulletins for a summary of this event written by the very youth who attended!

A Special Caution to Parents: As a parish community, we are bound to protect the young in our flock. This year, several programs have brought to light growing concerns over drugs now made to resemble candy. Please go to www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,271215.html for current alerts and information to help you safeguard the children in your life.