

§ Who or What is Saint John Lateran? >

This is the oldest, and ranks first among the four great "patriarchal" basilicas of Rome. The site was, in ancient times, occupied by the palace of the family of the Laterani. A member of this family, P. Sextius Lateranus, was the first plebian to attain the rank of consul. In the time of Nero, another member of the family, Plautius Lateranus, at the time *consul designatus* was accused of conspiracy against the emperor, and his goods were confiscated. Juvenal mentions the palace, and speaks of it as being of some magnificence, "regiæ ædes Lateranorum". Some few remains of the original buildings may still be traced in the city walls outside the Gate of St. John, and a large hall decorated with paintings was uncovered in the eighteenth century within the basilica itself, behind the Lancellotti Chapel. A few traces of older buildings also came to light during the excavations made in 1880, when the work of extending the apse was in progress, but nothing was then discovered of real value or importance. The palace came eventually into the hands of Constantine, the first Christian emperor, through his wife Fausta, and it is from her that it derived the name by which it was then sometimes called, "Domus Faustæ". Constantine must have given it to the Church in the time of Miltiades, not later than about 311, for we find a council against the Donatists meeting within its walls as early as 313. From that time onwards it was always the centre of Christian life within the city; the residence of the popes and the cathedral of Rome. The latter distinction it still holds, though it has long lost the former. Hence the proud title which may be read upon its walls, that it is "Omnium urbis et orbis ecclesiarum mater, et caput".

It seems probable, in spite of the tradition that Constantine helped in the work of building with his own hands, that there was not a new basilica erected at the Lateran, but that the work carried out at this period was limited to the adaptation, which perhaps involved the enlargement, of the already existing basilica or great hall of the palace. The words of St. Jerome "basilica quondam Laterani" (Ep. lxxiii, P.L., XXII, col. 692) seem to point in this direction, and it is also probable on other grounds. This original church was probably not of very large dimensions, but we have no reliable information on the subject. It was dedicated to the Saviour, "Basilica Salvatoris", the dedication to St. John being of later date, and due to a Benedictine monastery of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist which adjoined the basilica and where members were charged at one period with the duty of maintaining the services in the church. This later dedication to St. John has now in popular usage altogether superseded the original one. A great many donations from the popes and other benefactors to the basilica are recorded in the "Liber Pontificalis", and its splendour at an early period was such that it became known as the "Basilica Aurea", or Golden Church. This splendour drew upon it the attack of the Vandals, who stripped it of all its treasures. St. Leo the Great restored it about 460, and it was again restored by Hadrian I, but in 896 it was almost totally destroyed by an earthquake ("ab altari usque ad portas cecidit"). The damage was so extensive that it was difficult to trace in every case the lines of the old building, but these were in the main respected and the new building was of the same dimensions as the old. This second church lasted for four hundred years and was then burnt down. It was rebuilt by Clement V and John XXII, only to be burnt down once more in 1360, but again rebuilt by Urban V. Source: "Saint John Lateran." The Catholic Encyclopedia. Vol. 9. New York

Join Us At the Lord's Table on Thanksgiving Day:

Each year our nation celebrates Thanksgiving Day as a day of gratitude for the bounty of our land and the freedom we cherish so dearly. For many of us it is a day to travel home to be with loved ones and share in a lavish meal; for others, it means parades and football games; for still others, it signals the opening of the holiday season. No matter what our image of Thanksgiving Day may be, we as Catholics should take this opportunity to observe the religious overtones of the holiday. Hopefully, we can all make a special effort this year to gather together on *Thanksgiving Day, November 27th* to celebrate the Eucharist (...a word meaning "thanksgiving") at *10:00am* in the church. This will be the **only** Mass that day (no 8:30am Mass). God has bestowed so much on us. Let us now express gratitude to Him in special fashion this day. *When you come to Mass on Thanksgiving Day, please bring with you, in a nice basket or container, the bread and wine that will be placed upon your family table that afternoon or evening for your meal. A special blessing will be given to the bread and wine to be used for your Thanksgiving meal.*



Stewardship Report:



Revenue

November 2:	11,149.51
Faith Direct:	1,609.25
Total Offertory:	12,758.76
Last Year:	12,293.46
Poor Box:	159.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	58.95
Building and Maintenance Fund:	2,819.60

Number of Adult Envelopes: 285; Number of Children's Envelopes: 15; Number of Faith Direct donors: 36 Number of Registered Households: 635

Expenses

Property Insurance:	1,840.00
Cleaning Contract:	1,600.00
Paper Goods:	1,252.06
Sacristy Supplies:	172.15
HVAC Repair:	831.00
Water (WSSC):	1,583.30
Total Expenses:	7,278.51

Every Penny Counts Home Edition: Take home one of our labeled coin cans and fill it with your loose change. Bring back your filled can to donate 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!

New Offertory Envelope System: In order to reduce some of our Parish costs and preserve resources, we will be using a new offertory envelope system in 2009. Instead of quarterly mailings, parishioners will now be given envelopes for the entire year in advance. While we do not have all of the details available yet, we wanted to make our parishioners aware of this important change coming for 2009. Please watch for further information in the near future.

Forward In Faith: Parishioner gifts to Archdiocese Forward in Faith Campaign benefit not only the Archdiocese, but our own parish as well. We receive a percentage of collected pledges. We recently received a check in the amount of \$7,898.00! Thank you to all of our generous parishioners who offer the sacrifice of their treasure to better our community of faith, as well as our parish community.



Votive Lights

Sunday, November 9th through Saturday, November 15th:

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

For the Special Intentions of:
Joseph Sico; Ferris (Little Bo) George

Shrine of the Madonna & Child:

For the Special Intentions of:
The Ferrara Family; Dennis A. George; Katherine Munnely

Other Items of Note:

Thank You to Joe & Irene Pezzutti: Special thank to the Pezzutis for their generous donation of a beautiful portrait of Saint Rita of Cascia, patron Saint of Lost Causes. The portrait has been re-matted and framed and will be displayed near the upper level library in our parish school.

KOC/Ladies Auxiliary Memorial Mass: Mother Seton Council #5381 will be celebrating a memorial Mass for our deceased brothers and Ladies' Auxiliary members on **November 11, 2008 at 7:30 pm**. Because this Mass is on Veteran's Day, we are extending **an invitation to all veterans and their families to join with us** in this memorial Mass, as we remember the veterans and members of the military who made sacrifices for our country.

St. Matthias Book Fair: Mark your calendars for Nov. 11, 12, from 8:30-2:30; Nov. 13 from 8:30-12:30, and Nov. 14 from 7:30-noon. Friday, Nov 14 is report card conference day, so be sure to visit the Book Fair and get some of your Christmas shopping done!

Family Italian Night: This event will be held on Saturday November 15th from 6 PM to 9 PM in Friendship Hall. Cost is \$7.00 per adult, \$3.50 for children age 2-12, and a family maximum charge of \$18.00. The meal includes salad, pasta, bread, coffee/tea and dessert. Open to all parishioners – call John Murray at 301-459-6452 or Serafin Avitia at 301-459-5730 to make reservation arrangements. The profits will be divided between St. Matthias and the K of C Seminarian Support Fund.

New EMHCs: We are currently preparing a training session for members of the parish who are interested in serving as "Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion" at Sunday Mass and in visits to the homebound and patients at Doctors Hospital. The training session is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, November 22nd in the school library. In order to serve as an EMHC, you must be at least 21 years of age and a registered/practicing member of St. Matthias in good standing; if married, the marriage must be recognized by the Church as a sacrament; and you must be able to commit to a term of three years of service. Call Pat Makowski for more information: (h) 301-937-1443 or (cell) 301-312-8889.

LOC 2009 Holiday Sales: The Ladies of Charity will be selling Missals, Christmas cards and other items after each Mass this weekend to benefit their charitable works including, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for the needy. The Ladies will have the 2009 Sunday Missal available for \$3.50. This purse or pocket-sized paperback missal provides the scripture readings for the new liturgical year, as well as hymns, prayers, and devotionals. The LOC will also be selling Advent cards, candles and calendars.

Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge: Congratulations to St. Matthias School students who won at the District level Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge, hosted on our parish field last Saturday by Mother Seton Council: Winners include **Chase Washington** (boys 6 & under), **Keven Kelleher** (boys 11-12), and **Tyler Clements** (boys 13-14), **Amara Hayling** (girls 6 & under), **Eva Brady** (girls 9-10), and **Gianni Smith** (girls 11-12). State competition will be November 15th in Baltimore.

The St. Matthias Youth Group Invites You To An Evening of Thanksgiving and Praise



Sunday November 23, 2008 beginning at 5:00pm

Featuring Music & Dance

Performances by our talented Youth Group, Teens & Young Adults

As well as some very special guests!

Free Will Offering: Proceeds to benefit St. Matthias Youth Group. Please make checks payable to St. Matthias Youth Group



Mass Intentions for the Thirty Second Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, November 10: Leo the Great, pope, doctor

8:30 am All Souls

Tuesday, November 11: Martin of Tours, bishop

8:30 am All Souls

7:30 pm KOC/Ladies Auxiliary Memorial

Wednesday, November 12: Josaphat, bishop

8:30 am All Souls

Thursday, November 13: Francis Xavier Cabrini, virgin

8:30 am All Souls

Friday, November 14:

8:30 am All Souls

Sat., Nov 15: Vigil– Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

5:00 pm All Souls

6 - 9 pm KOC Family Italian Dinner Night -Friendship Hall

Sunday, Nov 16: Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am All Souls

9:30 am All Souls

11:30am All Souls

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

Phil Ates; Virgie Azarcon; Ann Benson; Barbara Brink; Audrey Brown; Margaret Carr; Fidel dela Cuesta; Eleanor DeMarco; Lisa Farland; Don Falls; 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; Willie (Bill) Moore; Bernadette Murphy; Larry Murphy; Rosemarie Nardozi; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Joseph Otero; Alice Parker; Dawn Pearson; Joe Sico; Walter Stewart; Margaret Zanin; Ryan Zawada **†For Our Deceased:** Deacon Albert S. Tompa **† Names will be placed on our prayer list for three weeks. To add a name or to request continuing prayers, contact Tara Guevara by phone at 301-459-4814 or email tguevara@stmatthias.org.**

Faith Formation

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting: This meeting (for parents only) will be held on **Monday, November 10, 2008 at 6:45 pm in Friendship Hall**. All parents from the School and the Faith Formation program are required to attend this meeting. Books will be distributed to parents only.

Confirmation/Candidate Parent Meeting: The first Confirmation Parent/Candidate meeting was held on Monday, November 3, 2008. Every candidate who wishes to be confirmed here at St. Matthias parish, whether they are in the school or the Faith Formation program, is required to participate in these meetings. If you missed the first meeting, please contact Dorothy Mensah-Aggrey immediately to obtain the necessary information packet.

Baptism Preparatory Seminar: The next seminar for parents who would like to have their infants baptized will be held on Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:00 pm in the School library. Parents must be registered parishioners in good standing who actively participate in church activities. Call the Office of Faith Formation to register before November 26th.