

## ✠ Blessing of an Advent Wreath ✠

### A Rite for the Beginning of Advent at Home

*The first day the wreath is in the home, the leader may say:*

As our nights grow longer and our days grow short,  
we look on these earthly signs--light and green branches--  
and remember God's promise to our world:  
Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.  
Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet:  
The people that walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those who lived in a land as dark as death  
a light has dawned.  
You have increased their joy  
and given them gladness;  
They rejoice in your presence  
as those who rejoice at harvest,  
as warriors exult when dividing spoil. *Is. 9:1-2*

*Then all pray:*

O God,  
rejoicing,  
we remember the promise of your Son.  
As the light from this candle,  
may the bless of Christ come upon us,  
brightening our way  
and guiding us by his truth.  
May Christ our Savior bring life  
into the darkness of our world,  
and to us, as we wait for his coming.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen  
*Then the first violet candle is lit.*



**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!** 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 the 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.

**Take Pride in Your Parish!** Help us keep St. Matthias a beautiful place. Don't be afraid to pick up trash, pull a weed, and as you leave church, help the ushers place kneelers in an upright position, remove papers, and place the hymnals back in their pew pockets. Together we show our community that all that we do reflects a reverence for God and the many things He has blessed us with in our church and school!

## Stewardship Report:

### Revenue

**DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY WEEKEND AND THE EARLY PUBLICATION OF THE BULLETIN, THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 23RD WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN.**

**Advent Coin Folders for the Poor Box:** Our annual special Christmas appeal for our Poor Box begins again with the appearance of the Advent Coin Folders. From November 17<sup>th</sup> through Christmas Day, each working household or individual is asked to set aside twenty-five cents a day (one quarter) so that by time December 25<sup>th</sup> arrives, each folder will contain a \$20.00 gift to the Poor Box. This year more than ever we need those who have the means to participate in this easy and simple method of fundraising to support the parish's charities and strengthen our ability to respond to our own parishioners in their time of need. Take your coin folder home this weekend from the entryway of our church and begin to prepare a special gift for the Christ Child on Christmas. God bless you for your continuing generosity!

**Tuition Assistance Forms:** PSAS tuition assistance forms for elementary and high school are available online at [www.adw.org/education/assistance.asp](http://www.adw.org/education/assistance.asp). Please remember that if you are requesting financial assistance through the archdiocese or want to apply for school scholarship programs, you must **FIRST** complete the PSAS application and submit it on time. Students who will be in catholic high school next year may also apply for the Fitzgerald Scholarship. Information is available at the above website and the due date is also December 5, 2008.

**Special Poor Box Collection:** Please help the Vietnamese Sisters of our parish support their community's efforts to open new schools and orphanages in Vietnam and to build and expansion onto their Houston facility that is in need of many things. The sisters will be at the doors of the Church after each Mass the weekend of December 13/14th to receive your offerings! Checks should be made payable to St. Matthias Church.

**Hospital visits/recently homebound?** Please remember that Doctors Hospital does not have a full time Catholic chaplain. The priests of our deanery in Prince George's County take turns covering the hospital for genuine medical emergencies, mostly after regular business hours on a weekly rotational basis. Each parish priest tries to see his parishioners at the hospital if he is made aware of the patient admission. Therefore, a reminder, that it is now imperative that the patient, or his or her spouse, or delegated family member contact the priest when someone is admitted to the hospital. Please do not assume that the priest is aware of your hospital visit. A large percentage of hospital visits today are planned in advance. In other words, the patient knows that he/she is going to the hospital for elective surgery or medical tests. When this happens, please ask to see your parish priest prior to your hospital visit, to request confession, Holy Communion, and the Anointing of the Sick. These sacraments can be celebrated with our community at daily Mass or on Sundays. Emergency calls are rare but when they do happen we will always try to respond immediately if we are available. When you check into the hospital please make sure that your religious preference is listed as Catholic so that our parish Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be able to locate you for reception of Holy Communion during their daily visits. Every priest is more than pleased to be of assistance but our assistance to you will rely more and more on some planning prior to your hospital visit or surgery. We appreciate your attention to this important reminder.



## Holy Day of Obligation:

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics!** *This holy day falls on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>! The Mass schedule at St. Matthias will be as follows: On Monday December 8<sup>th</sup>: 7:30am, Noon and 7:30pm Masses. Please mark your calendar so as not to forget this special holy day honoring the special grace and dignity bestowed by God upon our Blessed Mother, Mary.*

## Other Items of Note:

**School Subscription Raffle Tickets:** Tickets are \$50 and only 1,000 tickets will be sold so that you have a better chance to win!! Weekly winners receive \$300 and the seller of each winning ticket receives \$50. You can win as many as 35 times, as your ticket is placed in the Lottery pool every week for the 35 week Lottery. Please contact Ms. Vivian Mason at 301-577-9412 with any questions, or E-mail her at [vmason@stmatthias.org](mailto:vmason@stmatthias.org).

**Christmas Giving Tree:** The Christmas Giving Tree will return this year to the front right side of the Altar in the church on November 24<sup>th</sup>. The tree is decorated with ornaments bearing the name of an organization and a requested gift. Please take an ornament and return it along with the unwrapped gift requested by December 14<sup>th</sup> to the church or rectory. The gifts will be distributed to patients at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; Springfield Hospital Center; PG County Hospital Pediatric Unit; Mt. Washington Pediatric Unit; and Gift of Peace. Thank you for making the season special for those in need!

**LOC 2009 Holiday Sales:** The Ladies of Charity will be selling Missals, Christmas cards and other seasonal items after Masses each weekend to support their charitable works including, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for the needy. Items include the following: 2009 Sunday Missals for \$3.50; Advent Calendars for \$1.00 and a set of 4 Advent Candles for \$7.00.

**No Christmas Trees This Year!** While Christmas will be celebrated with all her seasonal trimmings on December 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be one noticeable absence in our parish holiday preparations. After examining the last three years of sales of fresh Christmas trees on our parish property I decided, along with the Parish Finance Council, to terminate this event. The risk of losing money was becoming a greater possibility in the light of our current economy. In short, it is a tremendous amount of work for a minimal profit. Thank you for all who did assist in years past, and in your name, I want to especially thank Mr. Craig Hough, our parish landscaper, who worked tremendous hours and was a true Santa's helper to us each of the past three years. Please share this news with your neighbors and friends who may have faithfully come to support our efforts.

## Faith Formation

**Baptism Preparatory Seminar:** The next seminar for parents who would like to have their infants baptized will be held on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm in the school library. Parents must be registered parishioners (for at least six months) who actively participate in church activities. Call the office to register by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Planning Ahead:** There will be no Faith Formation classes on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Instead, families are encouraged to observe this *Holy Day of Obligation* by participating in the parish liturgy at 7:30pm.



## Mass Intentions for the First Week of Advent

**Monday, December 1:**

8:30 am Joyce Dorsey

**Tuesday, December 2:**

8:30 am Etta Sarro

**Wednesday, December 3: Francis Xavier, priest**

8:30 am Mary Ellen Hanson

**Thursday, December 4: John of Damascus, priest, doctor**

8:30 am Andrew Wotyko

**Friday, December 5: First Friday**

8:30 am Guadalupe Manlapaz

Litany to the Sacred Heart of Jesus during Mass

**Sat., December 6: Vigil- Second Sunday of Advent**

**3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions**

5:00 pm Helen Marie Jones

**Sunday, December 7: Second Sunday of Advent**

8:00 am Mary Elizabeth Wood

9:30 am Anna Csmos

11:30am Cynthia Amayeive (living)

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

Phil Ates; Virgie Azarcon; Ann Benson; Leslie Berkey; 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; June Provini; Joe Sico; Walter Stewart; Josephine A Yodichkas; Margaret Zanic; Ryan Zawada **†For Our Deceased:** Reverend Patrick William Kemp **† 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](mailto:tguevara@stmatthias.org).**

## The Father E. Albert Hughes Scholarship: Making A Difference

Dear Father Jeff and parishioners,

Thank you for the Father E. Albert Hughes Scholarship Award. We both greatly appreciate the scholarship. This scholarship has helped us continue at Bishop McNamara High School and allows us to further our Catholic education.

We are both in the Honors Chamber Choir, Cooking Club, F.A.C.E. (Filipino American Cultural Enlightenment) and Mission Team. In addition, participation in sports, Peer Ministry and acceptance into the National Honor Society has helped us excel in Catholic education!

Thanks again, for the generous scholarship award. We are most grateful for the generosity of the parish. Thank you for your continued kindness and support.

Sincerely Yours,  
Krista & Ryan Scanlan