Parish Staff

Administrator
Reverend Milton E. Jordan ~ x 203

Administrative Assistant
Ms. Mary Young ~ x 201

Business Manager
Ms. Leslie O’Leary ~ x 202

Director of Faith Formation
Ms. Catherine Tolnay ~ x 205

Adult & Youth Religious Education and Sacramental Preparation

Director of Music Ministry
Ms. Regina Loffredo 301-464-9193

Organist
Ms. Deborah Kijak-Hess

Maintenance Supervisor
Mr. Hector Perez

School Office Staff

Telephone: 301-577-9412

Principal
Mrs. Abigail Greer ~ x 214

Director of Development and Admissions
Mrs. Vivian O. Richards ~ x 215

Administrative Assistant
Ms. Marsha Blackburn ~ x 212

Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00, 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM

Daily Mass Schedule
Monday through Friday: 8:30 AM

Monday Devotion
Adoration and Blessed Sacrament: 6:00 to 8:00 PM
Confessions: 7:00 to 8:00 PM
Benediction: 8:00 PM

Holy Days of Obligation
*Masses at: 7:30 AM, 12 Noon and 7:30 PM
*Unless otherwise announced

Sacrament of Baptism
Parents must be registered at least six months, practicing and attend a mandatory preparation seminar, which may be completed prior to the child’s birth. Please contact the Office of Faith Formation for information and registration.

Sacrament of Marriage
Registered, practicing parishioners must contact a parish priest at least six months in advance of the wedding.

New Parishioners
Welcome! Please fill out a parish census form in the church vestibule or contact the rectory. All parishioners must be registered and practicing in order for us to serve you by issuing a Letter of Good Standing for sponsorship at the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, or Matrimony.

Moving?
Please notify us as soon as possible if you are moving or have had a change of address in order for us to update our records.
Halfway Through Advent – Have I Missed It?

Dear Jesus,

It’s halfway through Advent and I’m not sure what happened. I really wanted to make this a reflective and calm season, preparing for your birth and pondering how you came into this world in such a stunningly humble way. But it’s so busy and I’m distracted and sometimes even short-tempered with those I love the most. Where are you in THAT?

I am discouraged and wish I could start over. But as I sit here in the rare moment of silence, I contemplate your birth. In a bed of straw, with the smell of manure everywhere. It’s a mess in that stable ... and come to think of it, my life is a little messy, too. I suddenly see that it is not just into the mess of the stable but into my mess that you enter the world. You came into a humble place and that humility is often where I live my life – feeling guilty or distracted and wishing I were a better person. But if I stop thinking of myself and focus on you, I realize that there you are, waiting to love me, even though I have so many unfulfilled good intentions about prayer, so many desires of how to change this fleeting Advent season.

I can begin Advent today and make this season deeper by making room in my heart for you. I can take just a moment before I get out of bed in the morning and feel the empty place in my life so often filled with my busyness. It is there I need you the most. Come, Lord Jesus. Come into that dark and lonely spot in my heart. You know what my needs are more than I do. Let me feel your love. If I only carry that thought with me each day, it will prepare me for Christmas.

Thank you, Jesus. It’s not too late. You are waiting to enter my life today, wherever I let you in. Help me to open my heart in these remaining days.

Taken from Praying Advent, on Creighton University’s Online Ministries website: http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/ CollaborativeMinistry/online.html. Used with permission.

Celebrant Mass Schedule for the Weekend of December 20th/21st

5:00 pm  Father Stan
8:00 am  Father Gerard
10:30 am Father Milt
6:00 pm  Father Milt

Stewardship Report: Revenue

December 7th:  10,836.00
Faith Direct:  2,591.60
Total Offertory:  13,427.60
Last Year:  10,682.60
Poor Box:  186.00
Every Penny Counts Box:  122.02
Building Fund for December to date:  2,872.00
Building Fund for December for 2013:  4,708.00

Number of Adult Envelopes: 202; Number of Children’s Envelopes: 6; Number of Faith Direct Donors: 68; Number of Regular Households: 805.

Recent Expenditures

McLean Controls (Maintenance): 1,460.00
Home Depot 325.78
Utilities:
Washington Gas (10/22-11/21) 1,905.78
Direct Energy 1,527.94
BGE 1,022.58
Waste Management 599.80
Verizon 255.33

Retirement Fund for Religious: Your second collection this weekend is for the continuing care of our elderly religious. Your gift to today’s collection provides vital support for the retirement needs of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also ensures that younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please give generously.

Online Advent Help: Are you looking for help with Advent? Help is available on the “Praying Advent” website provided by Creighton University, a Jesuit Catholic University. This online resource can address some of your questions. Try just one “Daily Prayer” for Advent. Visit www.onlineministries.creighton.edu/ CollaborativeMinistry/online.html.

Faith Direct: In this season of Advent, we are continuously preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ’s birth into this world. Please help our own parish prepare for the coming new year by signing up with Faith Direct? You can sign up online at www.faithdirect.net using our church code: MD41, or by mailing a paper enrollment form available in the pamphlet rack or the Hughes Center.

Advent Coin folders: Our annual Christmas appeal for our Poor Box began with the appearance of the Advent Coin folders. Please take a coin folder home and prepare a special gift for the Christ Child on Christmas Day. God bless you for your continuing generosity!

A Great Holiday Stocking Stuffer
The Academy Annual Lottery

Parishioners are encouraged to pick up a form from the pamphlet rack in the back of the church. A raffle ticket can also be purchased at the school or Hughes Center between the hours of 9:00 am and 2:00 pm or contact Vivian Richards at 301-577-9412 x215. Drawings begin Monday, January 5, 2015.

A Stewardship Moment: All of the people in today’s readings—the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, Saint Paul, Saint John the Baptist—seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I!
Welcome Home!
Emmanuel “Thad” Ereme is back home with us. Some of you may have already seen him in church and others may have seen him in the Hughes Center where he volunteers on Thursdays and Fridays. Please extend a hand and welcome him back.

Items of Note

Liturical Banners: Consider donating funds for purchase of liturgical banners for our parish this coming year. Banners for Divine Mercy, Pentecost and Marian are available. Banners are $110 dollars each. For more information, contact Mary Young at 301-459-4814 or email myoung@stmatthias.org.

Reflection on the Saints: Father Jordan will be offering a talk for Advent on the “Reflection of the Saints” on Tuesday, December 16th in the Hughes Center at 9:15 am. All are welcome.

Training for Altar Servers: Training for altar servers (grades 4th through adult) will begin soon. If interested, please call or email your name and contact information to Cynthia Faust at cffaust@atelierarchitects.com or 301-464-1799. An orientation meeting will be scheduled for early January.

Christmas Giving Tree: The Ladies of Charity Christmas Giving Tree is in the front of the church near the nativity. It 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 to the church or Hughes Center by Tuesday, December 16th. Thank you for making the season special for those in need.

Mary Kay Holiday Fundraiser: Bulletin Patron and Parishioner, Pamela DeFreitas, is sponsoring a Mary Kay Holiday Fundraiser. A donation of 50% of holiday profits will be made to the parish. Parishioners can purchase cosmetics from www.marykay.com/pam577 or call 301-312-0875 for more information. Please support our patron!

Blessing of the Luminaria: The annual Blessing of the Luminaria will be Christmas Eve, 1:30 pm, at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land. Join the friars in lighting more than 1,000 candles that will illuminate the outdoor Rosary Portico during the “Seven Nights of Lights,” from Christmas Eve to New Year's Eve. The candles symbolize a welcoming path into our homes and hearts for the Holy Family. The monastery is at 1400 Quincy Street, NE. For more information call 202-526-6800 or visit fmgg.org.

New Year’s Eve Overnight Retreat: From December 31st to January 1st the Dominican Retreat house will hold a New Year’s Eve Overnight Retreat. Our New Year’s celebration begins with a festive dinner at 6:15 pm, followed by a Conference, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and a Holy Hour beginning at 11:00 pm. On Thursday, January 1, 2015 we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist, the feast of the Mother of God, and close with breakfast. For more information, call 703-356-4243 or visit our website at www.dominicanretreat.org.

Mass Intentions
Third Week of Advent

Monday, December 15:
8:30 am Father Joseph Ranieri
(Living - Anniversary of Ordination)

Tuesday, December 16:
8:30 am Jeff George (Living - Birthday)

Wednesday, December 17:
8:30 am Louis Enahoro (Living)

Thursday, December 18:
8:30 am Hugh “Tony” McGarvey

Friday, December 19:
8:30 am Ed Densmore

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 20:
Vigil - 5:00pm Edmond Ogu

Sunday, December 21:
8:00 am Linda Morgan
10:30 am Trinidad Carpenter
Claude Cumberbatch
6:00 pm Father Richard Schmidt, S.J.

Please pray for the sick and homebound in our parish, our neighbors, family, and friends:
Tina Armero; Margie Baker; Euphemia Bilti; Melvin and Elaine Brooks; Muriel Brown; Yvonne Brown; Shawn Brown; Charles Butler; Taylor Byrd; Irene Chisholm; Edith Ejob; Joan George; Emma Graham; Francis Greenfield; Dorothy Johnson; Jack Jordan; Kay Kaderabek; John and Joan Kodak; Arleen Long; Joe Makowski; Carole New; Molly Onwukwe; Irene Pfezzuti; William Pinchback; Al Porazzo; Marion Prout; June Provenz; Delores Richardson; Nicole Riley; Pablo Rocha; Joseph Rubbo; Ben Self; Angela Thompson; Lucille Stronge; Kay Villemi; Sam and Jean Zanin; and Eugene Zehner; may God's healing grace be theirs. For our military serving overseas: Ryan Morgan; protect them from all harm. For all the faithful departed; Alfredo Felix; Gessie Hill; Charles Jones; Dibulike Ogwu; may they rest in peace.

Christmas Dinner for those In Need: If you know of someone who cannot get out and would like a Christmas dinner delivered to them on Christmas Day, contact the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at 202-526-8300 by Friday, December 12th.

5th Annual Longest Married Couple: Worldwide Marriage Encounter wants to honor the longest-married couple. The winners will be recognized during Valentine’s Week 2015. Nominations are open to all husband and wife couples, regardless of religious affiliation, and may be submitted by email (wwmelmc2015@gmail.com), calling 321-613-5180 or regular mail (Dick and Diane Baumbach, 8924 Puerto Del Rio Drive, Suite 402, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920). Please provide the name of the couple, their wedding date, where they reside, and phone number or email address of the individual nominating the couple. The deadline for nominations is January 10, 2015. For more information, visit wwwme.org.