



November 2010

My dear parishioners,

It's election night! After all the negative comments, exaggerations, half-truths, and confusing statements, I am glad the people have spoken. I pray that we will now all work together for what is best for our country. Let's work together for peace, a more just society, and a willingness to reach out to the most vulnerable among us. Together, let's look at issues of life from conception to natural death, immigration, the economy, and other challenges facing the American people. What can we do to be more informed? Why not start with the social teachings of the Church. As twenty-first century Catholics, we need to be informed and educated.

### ***Congratulations and Prayers for Cardinal Wuerl***

By the time you read this, Pope Benedict may already have elevated Archbishop Wuerl to the College of Cardinals. He certainly deserves the honor; as he himself notes, it also is a great honor for the Archdiocese. We, parishioners of his Cathedral Church, offer him our heartfelt congratulations and prayers. I will be in Rome for the celebrations and will pray for all of you at St. Peter's. I also will convey your best wishes and prayers to our new Cardinal. You will be able to join him at a special Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, **November 28** at Noon at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

### ***First, A Prayer of Thanksgiving***

During this time of the year, we are reminded of our many blessings. As a parish family, we will gather on Thanksgiving Day, **November 25** at 10:00 a.m. for a bilingual (English and Spanish) celebration of the Eucharist—the greatest act of thanksgiving for Christians. We are challenged by the words of the Communion Antiphon for that day, "What return can I make to the Lord for all that he gives to me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord." Let us together take the cup of salvation offered at such great cost, making just return to Him of our very selves! Reach deep! The offertory collection on Thanksgiving Day will benefit the many Social Justice & Community Services Ministries at St. Matthew's. In honor of the holiday, the parish offices will be closed both Thursday and Friday.

### ***The Coming of Our King!***



Advent and Christmas are fast approaching! Very soon, we will begin to hear the sounds of Christmas on the radio. In the Cathedral, we will hear "Prepare the Way of the Lord! Rejoice! The Lord is coming." During this season of Advent, let us be attentive to the Lord's gentle voice. Let us see him in those around us, especially in the most vulnerable: the poor; the homeless; the victims of AIDS; the depressed; the unemployed. Jesus appears where we least expect him. He comes to us in the hustle and bustle of Connecticut Avenue, or in the quiet of the Cathedral. He comes to us in the soup kitchen or on the Metro train. He is there. We must be open to his presence.

### ***Partake With Us!***

Enclosed you will find our *Advent and Christmas* brochure, which lists the Cathedral's many upcoming liturgies, ceremonies and events.

—Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, Pastor of the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, MD, will give the third in a series of monthly talks on "Authentic Lay Spirituality" on Thursday, **December 2** at 6:00 p.m. (following the 5:30 p.m. Mass) in the North Conference Room. Talks are held on the first Thursday of the month through May 2011.

—On **December 4**, join us for our annual Advent Day of Recollection with Dominican Father Michael McCormack, an excellent way to prepare for Christmas. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Great Hall of the Rectory and conclude with 12:10 p.m. Mass. All are welcome. Please register with Heather Kinney at [hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org).

—On Wednesday, **December 8**, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. Please note that Bishop Martin D. Holley will be the celebrant, a change from the brochure.

—One of the most anticipated holiday Cathedral offerings is our annual Advent Lessons and Carols followed by the singing of Christmas Carols in the Great Hall. Join us on Sunday, **December 12** at 7:30 p.m. when St. Matthew's acclaimed Schola Cantorum and Festival Singers join with our finest lectors to present this meditation on the Coming of Christ. Enjoy the Christmas sweets, wassail and eggnog at the sing-along.

—Our annual *Come Home for Christmas* Penance Service will be celebrated on Wednesday, **December 15** at 12:10 p.m. We have invited over twenty confessors, including those fluent in Spanish, French, German, Italian, and American Sign Language.

### ***Christmas Liturgies***

The holy season of Advent prepares for the coming of Christ on the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Please notice that the schedule of Masses has changed for Christmas Eve. I will celebrate a Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4:30 p.m. with a 4:00 p.m. prelude by the Contemporary Choir. Fr. Evelio will celebrate another Vigil Mass at 6:30 p.m., in Spanish, accompanied by the Spanish Choir. Cardinal Wuerl will celebrate the Solemn Mass of Christmas at 10:00 p.m. with the Schola Cantorum giving a prelude beginning at 9:15 p.m. The 10:00 p.m. Mass replaces our traditional Midnight Mass—there will be NO Midnight Mass.

### ***Christmas Flowers and Decorating***

For those who would like to get into the Christmas spirit and help decorate the Cathedral a few days before Christmas, please contact Fr. Regan or check the bulletin in early December. Enclosed you will find an envelope for your offering to help offset the cost of the Christmas flowers and decorations. Our Cathedral always looks beautiful at Christmas. However, the cost of flowers, plants and trees continues to rise each year, and we need your help to cover these costs. Together, we can make the Cathedral splendid with beauty this Christmas!

### ***Adopt-a-Family: A Special Way to Give Back***

Again this year, the Cathedral will sponsor its very successful Adopt-a-Family program. This year, 30 needy families and approximately 70 individuals will receive food and gifts through this effort, which enlists area businesses to “adopt” a family that lacks resources. There are many ways in which you can help the effort this year; most of them are one-time commitments that will take only a few hours of your time. For more information, see the bulletin or our website, or call Terri Kelly at [stmattsadoptafamily@gmail.com](mailto:stmattsadoptafamily@gmail.com).

### ***Sharing Our Blessings as Faithful Stewards***

I want to ask you for your continuing support of the parish. This is the season to thank God for his many blessings and to share those blessings with those around us, including your parish. Each member of the parish has been blessed. Each member is loved by God. I am sure most of you have a roof over your head, food, clothes, and other material and spiritual goods. As disciples of Christ and faithful stewards of all that we are given, we are called to return a share of our time, talents and treasure to the Lord so that those in need can be helped. We need the financial help of all parishioners if we are to continue reaching out to so many people. If everyone does his or her share, we will be fine. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your Christmas offering. To those who give so generously, thank you. Thank you.

May the Lord Jesus bless you as we prepare for Advent and Christmas. I will continue to remember you in my prayers each day. May the birth of Christ be a time of great hope and God's blessings for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson  
Rector

Enclosure

P.S. Visit our new website at [www.stmatthewscathedral.org](http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org). There you will find not only all of the activities planned for the upcoming holy seasons, but also our weekly bulletins and listings of holy day and other liturgies, and much more. Feel free to email me ([rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org)) with any suggestions or if you see anything that needs updating or correcting—we will be building our new website for a long time to come!