



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

September 2011

My dear parishioners,

My vacation has come and gone! Msgr. Amey, Fr. Gardiner and I had a great time—warm, sunny days with a nice breeze, an umbrella and a book on the beach; the sound of ocean waves rolling; great meals, great friends and only a rare phone call! I really enjoyed the relaxation, the quiet and the peace. It was fantastic—except for that broken toe near the end of the month. It didn't slow me down, though! I do hope that you also were able to get away for relaxation, recreation and renewal. Much awaits you at St. Matthew's!

Stewardship—Participate in the Abundance of God!

My friends, let us remember that all that we have comes from God; the only thing we can take with us from this life is what we have given: “a full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage.” (St. Francis of Assisi) Just as grace is a participation in the life of God, so stewardship is a participation in the abundance of God. The Holy Spirit calls each of us to a life of discipleship, to finding ways to give back to the hungry, the needy, the homebound and the unborn. Here at St. Matthew's we have a multitude of ministries doing just that. I invite you to find ways to participate, or to participate more fully, in our common mission.

Faith Direct—One Way to Participate

Thank you to the 335 households currently registered with **Faith Direct**, our electronic giving program. I am so grateful. Faith Direct helps to keep parish income steady even when people are away. Your contribution reaches us whether you are at the beach, in the mountains, overseas or out of the city on business. It also minimizes the effort needed for you to contribute regularly. Away on vacation? With Faith Direct, you need not worry about when to catch up. I know from personal experience—when I was away, I regularly forgot to make up missed contributions. Now that I am one of the 335, I have nothing to worry about! Last year at this time, I was looking for 500 participants in a year's time. While we did not reach that goal, I am encouraged by the sign-ups thus far; let's see if we can do it by June 2012! As an incentive, participant number 500 will be invited to a special dinner at the rectory prepared by our own Chef Maria!! Please consider enrolling!

Health & Wellness Fair—A Great Opportunity to Care for Yourself & Your Family

This year's **Health & Wellness Fair** sponsored by St. Matthew's Social Justice & Community Services Committee will be held on Sunday, **September 11**, 10am to 3pm, in the North and East Conference rooms, with expanded services, information and education! Flu shots and pneumonia vaccines will be available. We also will offer bone density, blood pressure, cholesterol, body mass index, vision/glaucoma, blood glucose, posture, balance, strength, HIV and other screenings by Holy Cross and Providence Hospitals, the Spanish Catholic Center, La Clinica del Pueblo, Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, and GW University. Also in attendance will be a general practitioner, dentists, American Diabetes Association, National Alliance on Mental Health, The Washington Home and Community Hospices, and the Archdiocese of Washington, offering education and information on general health, nutrition, cancer, advanced directives and other end of life issues and access to health services. Take advantage of the fair to care for yourself and your family!

Other Ways to Participate and Grow at St. Matthew's This Fall

Fr. Jack Hurley will offer a five-week course on the **Prophets of the Old Testament** on Saturday mornings this fall beginning on **September 10** from 10:30 to 11:45am. Bring a Bible, and consider staying for the 12:10pm Mass. All are welcome!

Fr. Kevin O'Neil, CSsR, friend of the Cathedral and current associate professor of moral theology at Washington Theological Union, will give our **Parish Mission – “The Gift You Have Received, Give as a Gift: Sharing the Grace of the Sacraments”** – to be held **September 17-20**. Please join us as we reflect on our journey to fullness of life in Christ, a journey that calls us to share the love so generously given by God and to

build up the body of Christ. Fr. O'Neil will preach at the 5:30pm Mass on the 17th as well as the 7am, 8:30am, 10am, and 11:30am Masses on the 18th. He will give reflections at 7pm Sunday through Tuesday in the Cathedral and abbreviated reflections following the 12:10pm Mass on Monday and Tuesday.

This year's **Fall Lecture Series** will focus on "**Exploring the New Evangelization,**" our mission set forth by Pope Benedict XVI to renew our faith and invite others to rediscover Christ and his message. Our five-part series will begin with a talk on Catholic identity in the third millennium and continue with talks on understanding the New Evangelization and what it means for our personal renewal, our parish vitality and our social mission. The series will begin Wednesday, **September 28** and Thursday, **September 29** and continue every Wednesday and Thursday in October. Wednesday lectures will be from 12:45 to 1:45pm in the North Conference Room. Thursday lectures will be from 7 to 8pm in the North Conference Room.

Once again, St. Matthew's will host the annual John Carroll Society lecture this fall. Author and theologian Father Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Chicago will speak on "**Culture Cries Out for Christ: Evangelizing Today's Society**" at 6:45pm on Tuesday, **September 13** in the Cathedral.

On Sunday, **October 2**, Cardinal Wuerl will celebrate the annual **Red Mass** at 10am. The 8:30am Mass is cancelled that day. At the Red Mass, we welcome members of the U.S. Supreme Court and many judges, lawyers and other members of the John Carroll Society. The side chapels will be available to nonmembers on a first-come, first-served basis, with doors opening at 9am. Please plan accordingly.

The monthly series of talks by **Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi**, pastor of Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, MD and John Carroll Society chaplain, will resume at St. Matthew's on Thursday, **October 6**. Msgr. Vaghi will speak on prayer at 6pm (following the 5:30pm Mass) in the East Conference Room.

More than twenty people have inquired this summer about becoming Catholic. We are always looking for sponsors to journey with these women and men through the **RCIA process**. Sponsors often report how much they learned and grew in their own faith by accompanying a person who is preparing to enter the Catholic Church. If you are interested, please contact Heather Kinney at hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org or 202-347-3215 x530. Please also keep the families and catechists of our children's religious education program in your prayers as they begin a new year on Sunday, **September 11**.

What a Response to Our Special Parish Needs! Thank You!

Thank you to those who responded to my last letter—the new Roman Missals, prayer cards, reprinting of the Latin books and one white chasuble are now funded. As I said then, I would like to complete a full set of white vestments, ordination dalmatics for deacons, and the replating of the chalices used for Holy Communion under both species. For more information, please contact me at 202-347-3215 or rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org.

Parish Pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal—Your Chance to See Fatima

I am blessed to lead a pilgrimage to Madrid, Fatima and Lisbon in April 2012! We will see the best of Madrid and Lisbon and surrounding towns, and spend time in Fatima where Our Lady appeared to Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco, with time for reflection and prayer. The group will leave Washington on Wednesday, **April 11, 2012**, and return on Sunday, **April 22, 2012**. The enrollment deadline is **January 15, 2012**. For more information, attend the Information Session on Saturday, **September 10** at 6:45pm in the West Conference Room or call Msgr. Jameson at 202-347-3215. You may also pick up a brochure with a detailed itinerary at the rectory.

I look forward to our working together, praying together and building together an even better parish community. God bless.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector

P.S. – Please check our website for up-to-date information on all of our regular and special events and liturgies throughout the year: www.stmatthewscathedral.org.



Looking for a convenient way to support our parish offertory?

Faith Direct is the innovative solution that allows you to support our parish using electronic funds transfer from either a credit card or bank account. It is a hassle-free, simple solution for today's busy families.

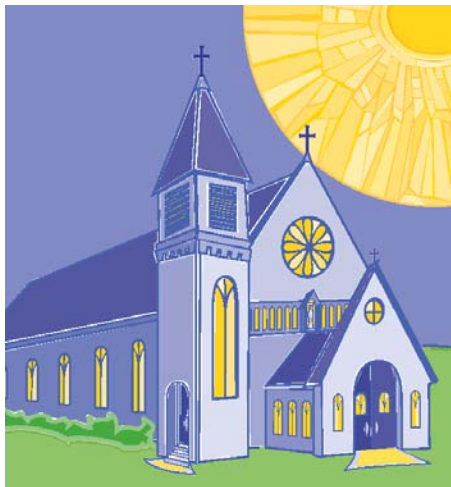
Sign up using the enrollment form on the other side or go online to www.faithdirect.net and use our parish code **DC284** to enroll today!

ENROLL TODAY!

How does Faith Direct work?

Faith Direct is a secure system that works directly with your bank or credit card—much the same as other direct payments you may have set up for utility bills or mortgage payments.

When do transactions take place?



Transactions take place once per month on the 4th or the next business day. The total amount of your gifts for that current month (both offertory & second/special collections) will be debited in one monthly total. The Cathedral will receive the funds 4 business days later.

Can I stop, increase, or decrease my payment at any time?

Yes, by calling *Faith Direct* at 1-866-507-8757 (toll free) by emailing info@faithdirect.net, or by logging in to your account through www.faithdirect.net.

How does the Cathedral benefit from my participation with Faith Direct?

The Cathedral will see a substantial increase in net revenue, a decrease in administrative costs, and a clearer picture of cash flow for their needs.

If you have any questions about the *Faith Direct* program, please call 1-866-507-8757 {toll free} or send an email to info@faithdirect.net, or contact Pam Erwin at the Rectory at 202-347-3215 x537 or perwin@stmatthewscathedral.org.

E-GIVING ENROLLMENT FORM



Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle
1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

FOR ONLINE ENROLLMENT
USE CHURCH CODE:

DC284

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Faith Direct • Attention: Enrollment • P.O. Box 7101 • Merrifield, VA 22116-7101 • 1-866-507-8757 {toll free} • www.faithdirect.net

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.” (Peter 4:10)

Weekly Offertory contribution: \$ _____

(Note: Total contribution amount will be debited on the 4th of the month or the next business day. The total amount will be determined by the number of Sundays in the month. Some months have 5 Sundays.)

You may also choose to give to the following second and special collections.
The amount indicated will be debited in the month listed as part of the regular monthly transaction.

COLLECTION	AMOUNT	MONTH	COLLECTION	AMOUNT	MONTH
<input type="checkbox"/> Cathedral Maintenance	\$ _____	Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Father	\$ _____	June
<input type="checkbox"/> Music Ministry	\$ _____	Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Communications & Human Development	\$ _____	August
<input type="checkbox"/> Poor Box/Outreach	\$ _____	Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Assumption	\$ _____	August
<input type="checkbox"/> Solemnity of Mary	\$ _____	January	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic University	\$ _____	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Church Missions within the US	\$ _____	January	<input type="checkbox"/> Propagation of the Faith/ World Missions	\$ _____	October
<input type="checkbox"/> Churches in the Developing World	\$ _____	February	<input type="checkbox"/> All Saints Day	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Ash Wednesday	\$ _____	March	<input type="checkbox"/> All Souls Day *	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Thursday	\$ _____	March/April	<input type="checkbox"/> Archdiocesan Priests' Retirement	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Land	\$ _____	March/April	<input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Easter Flowers	\$ _____	March/April	<input type="checkbox"/> Immaculate Conception	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Easter Sunday (In addition to regular Sunday gift)	\$ _____	March/April	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Flowers	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Relief Services	\$ _____	May	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas	\$ _____	December

* Please call the church at 202-347-3215 with the names of your intentions for this collection.

I would like to enroll in the Faith Direct program for the benefit of the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle. I understand that my total monthly contribution amount will be transferred directly from my checking account or credit card as stated above, a record of my gifts will appear on my bank or credit card statement, and my transfers will begin on the 4th or next business day of the month following my enrollment. I understand that I can increase, decrease, or suspend my giving by contacting Faith Direct toll free at 1-866-507-8757.

{All gifts provided to your Church originating as Automated Clearing House transactions comply with US law.}

Signature: X _____ Date: _____

Name(s): (please print) _____

Street Address: _____ Church Envelope #: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Name as I/we would like it to appear on Offertory Cards: _____

I do not wish to receive Offertory Cards to place in the collection basket as a sign of my electronic giving.

If you choose to enroll by mail, you can contact Faith Direct at 1-866-507-8757 {toll-free} to set up online access to your account.

For Checking Account Debit: Please return this completed form and a voided check to Faith Direct Enrollment.

For Credit Card Debit: Please complete the following... VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Print Name as Appears on Card: _____

Signature: _____

If you have any questions about the Faith Direct program, please contact us at 1-866-507-8757 {toll free} or info@faithdirect.net.