



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

September 2012

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! I do hope that you also were able to get away for relaxation, recreation and renewal with family or friends.

Last month I thoroughly enjoyed celebrating my 70th birthday with so many of you. Joining many of the regulars from the 11:30am Mass and others at the reception after the Mass was such a happy experience. Then we really had a fiesta after the 1pm Mass!! The Hispanic community really knows how to celebrate and feast—what a meal, what fellowship, what a real sense of family! I so enjoyed all the hugs at both celebrations—I hope they will continue. Thanks and God bless.

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. Start by visiting our website at www.stmatthewscathedral.org, including the Ministries and Volunteer Opportunities page reached by clicking that tab under the Join Us navigation bar at the top of the page.

An Opportunity to Join the Parish Pastoral Council

Soon we will hold elections for our Parish Pastoral Council, which advises and assists me in developing, organizing and supporting programs and ministries to enhance the spiritual and temporal life of the Cathedral parish community. Whether you are a longstanding parishioner or new to the parish, serving on the Pastoral Council is a great way to participate in, and to help in shaping, the life of our parish community. More information on the election will be coming soon in St. Matthew’s weekly bulletins and on the parish website and Facebook page. I hope you will thoughtfully consider this call to service.

Faith Direct—Another Way to Participate

Thank you to the 390 households currently registered with **Faith Direct**, our electronic giving program. I am so grateful. Faith Direct minimizes the effort needed to contribute regularly and ensures that your contribution reaches us whether you are at the beach, in the mountains, overseas or out of the city on business. I know the benefits from personal experience—when I was away, I regularly forgot to make up missed contributions. Now as one of the 390, 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 2013! 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!

Other Opportunities to Partake and Grow at St. Matthew’s

This summer has been a busy one in Faith Formation. We hosted a screening and discussion of each of the ten episodes of Fr. Robert Barron’s acclaimed documentary, “Catholicism.” One of our own parishioners, career coach Ms. Hiranya Fernando, offered a series of classes – “Your Talent for God’s Purpose” – on finding meaningful work in this challenging job market. Forty people attended these classes over six weeks, learning ways to identify their own unique talents and matching these to appropriate career paths. Let us keep these women and men in our prayers as they apply these important lessons in their lives.



Pope Benedict XVI has declared that a “Year of Faith” will begin on October 11, 2012 and conclude on November 24, 2013. The first day of the year of Faith is the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Our Fall Lecture Series will focus on the documents and themes of this important council in the life of our Church. Confirmed speakers include Rev. John O’Malley, SJ of Georgetown University and Rev. Msgr. Paul McPartlan of Catholic University of America, both of whom also will be keynote speakers at a four-day symposium on Vatican II in September at CUA. Our series will begin on Wednesday, **October 3** and Thursday, **October 4**, continue every Wednesday and Thursday in October, and conclude on Thursday, **November 1**. The 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.

Fr. Jack Hurley will offer a five-week course on the Historical Books of the Old Testament on Saturday mornings this fall – **October 27 and November 3, 10, 17, and 24** – from 10:30 to 11:45am. Be sure to check the bulletin or website for the location each week. Bring a Bible, and consider staying for the 12:10pm Mass. All are welcome!

Please keep in your prayers the families and catechists of our children’s religious education program as they begin a new year on Sunday, **September 9**, as well as our RCIA catechumens and candidates as they prepare for the Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming to be celebrated at the 11:30am Mass on Sunday, **September 16**.

Other Noteworthy Fall Events

The Cathedral Health and Wellness Fair, sponsored by the Social Justice & Community Services Committee, will be held on Sunday, **September 9** from 9:30am to 3:30pm in the North and East Conference rooms. This year’s Fair will offer flu shots, bone density, blood pressure, cholesterol, body mass index, blood glucose, posture, balance, strength, HIV and other screenings by Holy Cross and Providence Hospitals, the Spanish Catholic Center, La Clínica del Pueblo, George Washington University, and other providers. Also in attendance will be a general practitioner to interpret results and answer questions, dentists, and representatives from the American Diabetes Association, the National Alliance on Mental Health, and the Archdiocese of Washington (on advanced directives and other end of life issues). These organizations will provide education and information on general health, nutrition, cancer, access to health services, and more. Please take advantage of this opportunity to care for your and your family’s health and wellbeing. If you are interested in volunteering the day of the Health Fair, please email Gregg Glotnis at gglotnis@verizon.net.

On Sunday, **September 30**, 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 11th Annual Oktoberfest is **October 20!** This annual tradition is a joint fundraiser between the Cathedral Young Adults and St. Thomas Young Adults. All are invited to St. Thomas the Apostle in Woodley Park for beer, brats and fun! Tickets will be sold after the 11:30am Mass on Sunday, October 7 and after the 5:30pm Mass on Sunday, October 14. You also may purchase tickets online anytime at www.oktoberfestdc.com. Tickets are \$30 in advance, which includes a complimentary beer stein at the event, and \$40 at the door. Don’t wait too long – Oktoberfest sells out each year! Don’t miss out!

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. Please also check (and like!) our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/st.matthews.cathedral.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.

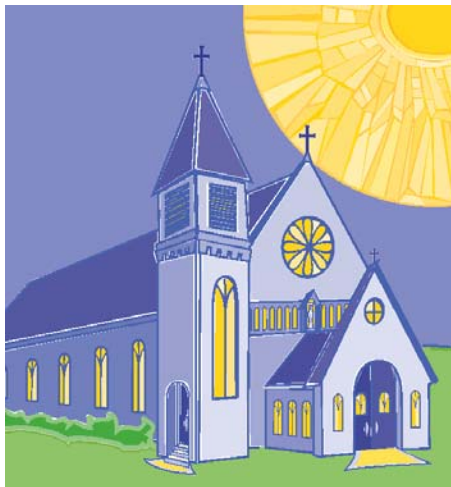
Sign up using the enrollment form on the other side or go online to www.faithdirect.net and use our parish code **DC284** to enroll today!

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.