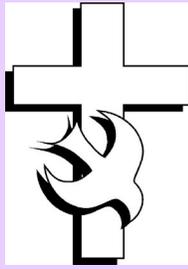


Family Connection

In today's Gospel, Jesus warns His disciples against the fatigue that can emerge if one becomes consumed by the anxieties of daily life. Many families are too familiar with the kind of fatigue Jesus refers to here. We may be concerned about a family member's health, our job security, our children's education, or any number of other concerns. All these are important matters. Jesus does not promise an end to daily worries and fears, but He does teach His disciples that they will have the strength to withstand anxiety if they stay focused on Him, remaining vigilant for His return and praying for strength to endure all tribulations. Through prayer, God helps us stay focused on that which is most important in our lives.



As you gather as a family, recall the tradition of making New Year's resolutions in preparation for the new calendar year. Observe that today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is the beginning of the new Church year. During the season of Advent, our Gospel readings ask us to consider what is most important to us as we prepare for Jesus' coming, at his birth, and at the end of time. Read today's Gospel, Luke 21:25-28,34-36. Jesus describes signs that may disturb many people, but He says that these should not disturb His disciples. Why? (because these signs indicate that redemption is near) What does Jesus say that His disciples should do? (Be vigilant and pray for strength.) At the start of this new Church year, consider as a family what "Advent resolutions" your family might make to help you stay focused so that you will be prepared to receive the salvation we celebrate at Jesus' birth and anticipate at Jesus' second coming. Pray together for God's help in following through on these resolutions. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 25.

Taken from Loyola Press www.loyolapress.com

Advent Prayer Reflection



God of comfort, these times seem so uncertain, so scary. The world seems darker than it has in the past and I am less sure of myself. Maybe that's a good thing; maybe now I am turning to You with a realization that I need You so much more and that my life is not in my own control. Let me not forget all of those around the world who are frightened at this moment. Help those who are victims of terrorism and war. Be with those who have lost so much in the past year. Hold us all in Your loving arms and let us be comforted by the strength and peace You want to offer us through the birth of Your son, Jesus. Thank you for the many gifts You offer us.

Taken from www.onlineministries.creighton.edu

Stewardship Report: Revenue

DUE TO THE THANSIVING HOLIDAY AND THE EARLY PUBLICATION OF THE BULLETIN, THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 22ND WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN

**Please complete and return your
Take the Next Step Pledge Offertory
Renewal Card!
Thank you for your generosity.**



Looking Ahead

December 8th: Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, Dec 7th Confessions at 7:00 pm
Vigil Mass at 7:30 pm
Adoration and Benediction are cancelled for the evening

Tuesday, Dec. 8th Mass at 7:00 am
Mass at 9:30 am (student Mass)
Mass at 12:00 pm
Mass at 7:30 pm

St. Joseph Sunday Missal Sales: The Ladies of Charity are selling the 2016 Sunday Missals this weekend. The cost of the Missal is \$4.00.

The St. Matthias Prayer Group meets every Sunday in the Church after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Hosting An Event? Friendship Hall is available for rent. For information, please contact Thad Ereme at 301-459-4814 or email tereme@stmatthias.org.

Key Inventory: If you were issued keys to the Church or School, please contact Mr. Thad Ereme at 301-459-4814 x 207 or tereme@stmatthias.org to register key(s). Thank you if you have already done so.

Advent Coin Folders for the Poor Box



Our annual Christmas Appeal for our Poor Box began two weeks ago with the distribution of the Advent Coin Folders. From **November 17th** through Christmas Day, each working household or individual is asked to set aside twenty-five cents a day (one quarter) so that by the time **December 25th** arrives, each folder will contain a \$10.00 gift to the Poor Box. If you haven't already done so, please take a folder home this weekend and begin to prepare a special gift for the Christ Child on Christmas. **God bless you for your continuing generosity.**

Wreaths for the Church

Calling all decorators! Five wreaths will be available at each of the Masses, December 5th & 6th. Decorated wreaths will be used in the Church for the Christmas season. Please return the decorated wreaths by Sunday, December 20th.

Items of Note

Two-Way Immersion Early Childhood Program:



Starting the Fall of 2016, The Academy of Saint Matthias the Apostle will offer a two-way immersion Spanish-English program for PreK-4 and Kindergarten. The instruction in all subject areas will be 50% in English and 50% in Spanish. For additional information and applications for the new program, contact Mrs. Vivian Richards, Director of Admissions, at 301-577-9412 x 215.

Christmas Giving Tree: The Christmas Giving Tree is decorated with ornaments bearing the names of organizations and requested gifts. Please take an ornament and return it along with the unwrapped gift by Sunday, December 20th. Items may be dropped off in the Church or Hughes Center. Thank you for making the season special for those in need!



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 at 202-526-8300, ext. 111, by Friday, December 11th.



Calling all Teens! The Saint Matthias Teen Youth Group will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 13th from 12 pm to 2:30 pm in the Hughes Center. Refreshments will be provided! Parish teens in grades 9 through 12 are welcome. Registration forms are available in the pamphlet rack in the Church vestibule. For more information, contact Le-Marie Thompson at 301-452-2258 or Arlene Taylor at 301-459-5549.

Ushers Meeting: On Sunday December 13th a brief mandatory meeting of all ushers will take place immediately following the 10:30 am Mass.

School News:

- Sign up to run and fundraise with us! On March 12, 2016, teachers and friends from all over the country will come to Washington, D.C. to support the Academy of Saint Matthias the Apostle! Sign up for the run at <http://runrocknrooll.com/dc>.
- Get your Raffle Tickets! Tickets are \$10 each. The weekly drawing begins January 4, 2016, and ends August 29, 2016. The weekly winner receives \$300 and the seller receives \$50. Tickets may be purchased in the school office or in the Hughes Center parish office. A ticket makes a great stocking stuffer!
- December 4th is the final day for submission of Financial Aid Applications for current families. It remains open for all other families who have interest in our school.
- The next school fundraiser is a family dinner night December 8th at Texas Road House in Bowie. All are welcome!

Mass Intentions for the First Week of Advent

Monday, November 30: Saint Andrew, Apostle

8:30 am All Souls
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Confessions
8:00 pm Benediction

Tuesday, December 1:

8:30 am Augustine Ereme

Wednesday, December 2:

8:30 am Joseph Henderson

Thursday, December 3: Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

10:00 am Roberta Henderson

Friday, December 4: (First Friday)

8:30 am Michael Ereme

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 5:

5:00 pm Guadalupe Manlapaz

Sunday, December 6:

8:00 am Dorothy Oleru
10:30 am Ugochukwu Ikedilo
6:00 pm Alfredo Felix

Readings for the Second Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

2nd Reading: Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1 -6

Please pray for the sick and homebound in our parish, our neighbors, family, and friends:

Margie Baker; Muriel Brown; Oscar Charles; Ronnie Davis; Al Craig; Emma Graham; Francis Greenfield; Jade Jackson; Jack Jordan; Kay Kaderabek; John and Joan Kodak; Joe Makowski; John Murray; Tim O'Leary; Sally Palmer; William Pinchback; Marion Prout; Pablo Rocha; Jayce Richardson; Marian Thomas; Kevin Tagoalem; Kay Villemi; Jinny Wallerstedt; Madeline White; Sam Zanin; Eugene Zehner

-For our military, protect them from all harm.

-For all the faithful departed, especially Lourdes Alexander and Teresa Hahne, may they rest in peace.

Names will be placed on our prayer list for 4 weeks. To add a name, please contact Pat Ford at 301-459-4814 x 201 or email pford@stmatthias.org.

Celebrant Mass Schedule for the Weekend of December 5/6



5:00 pm Father Edmunds
8:00 am Father Milt
10:30 am Father Ford
6:00 pm Father Keke