**Stewardship Report**

Due to the Christmas holiday and the early publication of the bulletin, the Stewardship Report for December 25th will appear in next week’s bulletin.

**Items of Note**

**Christmas Gift/End of the Year Giving:** December 31st marks the end of the 2016 calendar year of charitable contributions for your tax returns this spring. We will credit your annual financial contribution statement to the parish with gifts received by December 31, 2016. Gifts received after this date will be posted on your 2017 statement. Please plan ahead so that your financial contribution statement will reflect a true spirit of stewardship and of joyfully returning to the Lord the blessings He has bestowed upon you this past year. Please note that we cannot certify contributions made in cash to the collection basket.

**Hosting An Event?** Friendship Hall is available for rent. Please contact Thad Ereme at 301-459-4814 x 207 or tereme@stmatthias.org.

**Missals for 2017:** The 2017 Sunday Missals are available at the Parish office, or you may see an usher after Mass. Cost of each Missal is $4.00.

**Perpetual Memorial Candles:** For an initial payment of $50, and monthly installments, you can reserve a candle. For more information, please contact Thad Ereme at 301-459-4814 x 207 or tereme@stmatthias.org.

**Volunteers are needed** in the parish office to greet visitors, answer phones, and perform other light clerical duties. Morning and afternoon shifts are available. Contact Thad Ereme at 301-459-4814 x 207 or tereme@stmatthias.org.

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**Masses for the Octave of Christmas**

**Monday December 26th:** Saint Stephen
Daily Mass 8:30 AM: Carleigh Paolino (Birthday—Living)

**Tuesday, December 27th:** Saint John
Daily Mass 8:30 AM: Amayeuwe Family (Living)

**Wednesday, Dec. 28th:** The Holy Innocents
Daily Mass 8:30 AM: Jose C. Manlapaz

**Thursday, December 29th:** Saint Thomas Becket
Daily Mass 8:30 AM: Adamma Ugoh

**Friday, December 30th**
**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**
Daily Mass 8:30 AM: Marian Huber

**Saturday, December 31st**
Daily Mass 8:30 AM: Ernesto Felix

**Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**
**Saturday, December 31st**
Family Vigil Mass 5:00 PM: Eugenia Agbakwuru
Spanish Mass 7:00 PM: Intentions of Parishioners

**Sunday, January 1st**
8:00 AM: Linda Lee Morgan
10:30 AM: Ugochukwu Ikediilo
6:00 PM: Intentions of Parishioners

**Readings:**
1st Reading: Numbers 6:22-27 I
2nd Reading: Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

**Please pray for the sick and homebound in our parish, our neighbors, family, and friends:**
Elijah Alexander; Lisa Allison; Lazarus Asong; Margie Baker; Earl Bracey; Elaine Brooks; Melvin Brooks; Muriel Brown; Hazel Campbell; Al Craig; Ronnie Davis; Joseph DeMarco Jr; Norma Florimio; William Halbe; Kimberly Jackson; Jan Jarus; Vera Joseph; Kay Kaderabek; John and Joan Kodak; Richard Kosko; Joe Makowski; Dorothy Newman; Macaulay Nzefili; Christopher Ouaku; John Plater; Jennifer Randall; Sam Ross; Phyllis Szczuka; Amalia Spescha; Ida Stelmack; Jeffrey Surtkovich; Charity Taylor; Elijah Taylor; Louise Tesar; Marian Thomas; Matthew Thomas; Nathaniel Thompson; Kay Villemi; Mae Young; Sister Giustina Zanin; Zaria Zanin; Eugene Zehner; Mickey Zehner

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

For our military, protect them from all harm.
For the faithful departed, may they rest in peace.

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Dear Friends,

On behalf of Father Canice and visiting clergy, I offer you best wishes for a blessed and happy Christmas.

Thanks to your generous support of our parish, we have accomplished much in 2016: welcoming our Hispanic neighbors by offering Masses in Spanish and preparing for sacraments, completing the St. Michael the Archangel Adoration Chapel, replacing our church floor, and strengthening our parish ministries. We look forward to the coming year as we continue to grow in faith.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Milt
NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Christmas and New Year Holidays

The Father Hughes Center: The parish office will be closed Monday, December 26th and will reopen Tuesday, December 27th at 8:00 AM. The parish office will be closed on Friday, December 30th and will reopen Tuesday January 3rd at 8:00 AM. Thank you for planning ahead for any needs you may have of our staff.

The Academy of Saint Matthias: The school will reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd.

Family Connection

Christmas has come to be associated as a season of peace. This association and our familiarity with the Christmas story sometimes make us forget about the difficult circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth. As a family, gather around your nativity and carefully read Luke's story of Jesus' birth, Luke 2:1-14. Recall that the manger you see in the nativity set is not in a house, but a stable. The animals you see might have been noisy and may even have smelled unpleasant. Joseph and Mary were far from home in a city that was crowded and under the occupation of foreigners. The shepherds may have been unclean from their time in the fields. Invite family members to say one thing about the Christmas story that makes an impression upon them.

Conclude by praying together for people in today's world who may experience circumstances like those found in the story of Jesus' birth. Pray for those who are far from home, those who live in fear, those who live in need. Sing together one or more Christmas hymns, such as “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” or “Angels We Have Heard on High.”

Taken From Loyola Press (www.loyolapress.com).

Faith Formation

Adult Bible Study: Our Adult Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew will resume on Tuesday, January 3rd at 9:10 AM in the Hughes Center. We will pick up with Matthew Chapter 8. Please come and bring a friend.

School News

School Raffle Fundraiser: Please support our school by purchasing raffle tickets for $10 each. The weekly drawing begins January 3, 2017, and ends August 28, 2017. Each winner receives $300 and the seller receives $50. Tickets may be purchased in the school office or in the Hughes Center parish office.

Parish Social Life Committee

The PSLC would like to thank you for supporting and participating in our sponsored events in 2016. We are making plans for 2017 that will offer you opportunities for fellowship.

Schedule for Lectors, EMCH, & Altar Servers

December 31/January 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Lectors</th>
<th>EMCH</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>A. Hawkins</td>
<td>Riz Galicinceo</td>
<td>S. Cherisca, X. Cherisca</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>J. Barahona</td>
<td>C. Johnson, R. Johnson</td>
<td>E. Enrique, J. Andres, B. Barahona</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>M. Kwapis</td>
<td>S Keleti, M. Grayson</td>
<td>A. Marshall, G. Marshall, J. Onyewu</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>B. Nwdije</td>
<td>I. Udejiofor</td>
<td>C. Nnorom, O. Nnorom, N. Agha</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 am</td>
<td>J. Bhola</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>J. Onuoha, A. Akem</td>
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Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016 - New Year’s Eve

8:30 AM Daily Mass
5:00 PM Vigil Mass for The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
7:00 PM Spanish Mass

Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017 – The Solemnity of Mary

8:00 AM Mass
10:30 AM Mass
6:00 PM Mass

Celebrate Mass Schedule for the Weekend of December 31/January 1

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Father</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Albert</td>
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<td>10:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Albert</td>
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