



Daily Reflection

It is back to school time and the store shelves are brimming with fresh new school supplies: brightly colored pencils and erasers, notebooks and folders, new lunch boxes and backpacks with multiple zippered compartments. These supplies signal a new beginning. When I was a child, we begged our mother to label our school supplies with her beautiful handwriting. While my school years are long behind me and my college-aged girls shop for their own supplies, I still get appreciate the hope and optimism contained in back-to-school supplies.

My favorite item is a brand new day planner which helps me approach this back-to-school time with purpose. Although I keep an electronic calendar for work appointments, the spiral bound day calendar is the perfect place for my to-do lists and goals. Flipping through my new calendar, I remembered a dear friend telling me that you can learn a lot about what a person truly values by simply reviewing his or her calendar and check book. (And in light of Laudato Si, we should perhaps add shopping bag and recycling bin). The wisdom of my friend comes to mind with today's readings.

In today's first reading from Deuteronomy, Moses urges the Israelites to carefully observe the commandments of the Lord which provide a clear guide for our actions. In the second reading, James tells us to "Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves." Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world. What a reminder of the importance of living a faith of action in service to others. And in the Gospel Jesus calls out the hypocrisy of the Pharisees through Isaiah's prophesy, "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." Appearance and tradition and hubris cannot mask sin.

As I pray with these readings I am challenged to have my actions match my faith. And I also reflect upon how sin can so easily come into each day. Jesus shares a list of sins which come from within including evil thoughts, greed, envy and deceit. This is a powerful reminder for me to review how I spend my time.

My daily planner can be a chronicle of what is truly important to me in service to the kingdom of God. Do I schedule to attend a festive fundraiser rather than advocate for changes to the systems which promote poverty? Where is the quality time with a friend who is having a difficult time? Does my planner show when I plan to have a conversation with a challenging colleague as I work to improve the relationship? My planner can be my reminder to be a doer of the word.

Taken from Creighton University's Online Ministries website: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>. Used with permission.

Stewardship Report: Revenue

August 23 rd	7,987.00
Faith Direct:	2,392.00
Total Offertory:	10,379.00
Last Year:	11,493.00



Building and Maintenance Fund: Our second collection next weekend is for our regular **Building and Maintenance Fund**. This monthly collection enables us to make ongoing repairs and improvements to our parish and school buildings and grounds. As always, we thank you for your generosity.

Hosting an Event? Friendship Hall is available for rent. For information, please contact Mr. Thad Ereme at 301-459-4814 x 207 or email him at tereme@stmatthias.org.

Spiritual Reading Materials: The following booklets are available in the back of the Church:

- **"The Word Among Us"** publication offers Pope Francis's vision for the *Synod on the Family*, as well as complete Catholic Masses and daily meditations.
- **"Pray the Rosary"** booklet will guide you to a richer and more intimate understanding of the Holy Rosary.

Looking Ahead

Pope Francis is coming to the Archdiocese of Washington and you are invited to be a part of the journey by taking a pledge. Welcome Pope Francis by committing to follow his example of faith and service. As the Letter of James in today's readings challenges us: "Be doers of the word and not hearers only." We are challenging local individuals and organizations to take the pledge to *Walk with Francis* by choosing to pray or serve or act in a new way to advance his mission and ministry in the next year. Your pledge will be presented as a gift to the Holy Father during his visit. Visit walkwithfrancis.org to take the pledge online. The best way to welcome Pope Francis is to #WalkwithFrancis and share your pledge on social media.

Day of Recollection: Father Milt will offer an adult **Saturday of Recollection** in the Hughes Center on September 19th. The theme will be the *Mercy of God*. We will celebrate Mass at 8 am in the Church, followed by three presentation on aspects of mercy (beginning at 9 am in the Hughes Center). We will eat a prepared lunch together at 12 pm, and the day will end in the Church with the praying of the Divine Mercy chaplet about 2 pm. Registration is \$20 per person for those who register and pay by Tuesday, September 15th. Registration will be \$30 per person at the door.



Academy News

Back to School: Tomorrow is the first day of school for Academy students. Please observe the traffic pattern rules and watch for students and parents in the parking lot, especially prior to the **8:30 am** Mass.

THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The parishioners and staff of St. Matthias Church extend a warm welcome to Cardinal Donald Wuerl who will preside at today's installation of Father Milt Jordan as pastor at the 6 pm Mass. A reception with light refreshments, hosted by all church ministries, will be held after the Mass in Friendship Hall.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Registration: Parents of children who do not attend a Catholic School are encouraged to register them for Faith Formation classes (grades K-8) which will begin in September. The registration forms are in the pamphlet racks in the vestibule of the Church.

Religion Teachers Needed: Faith Formation needs adult catechists, aides, substitutes, and hall monitors on Monday evenings from 6:15—8:00 pm. Training is provided through the parish and the Archdiocese. Please call Catherine Tolnay at 301-459-4814 ext. 205 to discuss the possibility of serving the Lord through His young people.

Items of Note

Parish Council: Your parish needs you to consider nominating yourself or a fellow parishioner to serve on the parish council. The council assists the pastor in identifying and supporting the specific parish needs. For more information, pick up a flyer in the Church vestibule. Questions? Contact Mr. Thad Ereme at 301-459-4814 x 207.

Mothers, Saints & Models of Faith: Eight Catholic churches have collaborated to present an exciting evening titled "Mothers, Saints, & Models of Faith" with ValLimar Jansen. Mrs. Jansen will share inspiring short stories and songs for past and future confirmation groups along with youth groups from the 7th to 12th grades. The evening events will be held at Saint Margaret of Scotland, 410 Addison Road, Capital Heights on September 4th from 7 pm to 9 pm. This is a free event! For more information please call Cynthia Battle, 202-678-5459 or Michael Howard, 2301-785-4394.

Knights of Columbus Car Raffle: Tickets are available for the Knights of Columbus 46th annual Car Raffle. This raffle benefits area charities and scholarship programs. The grand prize is a 2016 Ford Mustang or \$18,000 cash option. The second prize is an iPad Air, and the third prize is a \$200 gas card. The drawing will be held at the Columbus Day Ball on Saturday, October 10th at the BWI Marriott, Linthicum. Tickets are \$1 and are available from any council member, or you may call John Murray (301-459-6452) or Emmanuel Ajayi (202-413-1066).

Raffle Winner: Congratulations to Troy Sewell, winner of \$300, and to the seller, Windell Rich, winner of \$50.



Mass Intentions for the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, August 31:

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

Tuesday, September 1:

8:30 am Joan George (Living - Birthday)

Wednesday, September 2:

8:30 am Jazmine, Chloe Day, & Noah Campbell (Living)

Thursday, September 3: St. Gregory the Great, Pope

8:30 am Jude & Florence Nwoke (Living-Anniversary)

Friday, September 4:

8:30 am Bill Chappell (Living - Birthday)

The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 5: (Sat. 5pm Mass Resumes)

5:00 pm Joseph Daly

Sunday, September 6:

8:00 am Dr. Dennis George
10:30 am Christy Udejiofor
6:00 pm Edward Keightley

Readings for the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time:

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7A

2nd Reading: James 2:1-5

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

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

Mary Ajayi; Margie Baker; Melvin and Elaine Brooks; Muriel Brown; Shawn Brown; Yvonne Brown; Yvette Butler; Hazel Campbell; Sylvia Conte; Al Craig; Ronnie Davis; Patricia Garner; Brendan George; Emma Graham; Francis Greenfield; Wonema Hammer; Salome Ihejirika; Dorothy Johnson; Pamela Jones; Jack Jordan; Kay Kaderabek; John and Joan Kodak; Carmen Kosko; Janice Lipa; Anthony Long; Joe Makowski; John Murray; Carole New; Bernice Nnannah; Molly Onwukwe; Joe Owens; William Pinchback; Marion Prout; Martin Reedy; Nicole Riley; Pablo Rocha; Lisseth Salvador; Charles Shryock; Lucille Strenge; Marie Scott; Marian Thomas; Angela Thompson; Kay Villemi; Madeline White; Sam Zanin; Eugene Zehner and Mary Ann Zehner. **May God's healing grace be theirs.**

-For our military, protect them from all harm.

-For all the faithful departed, may they rest in peace.



Celebrant Mass Schedule for the Weekend of September 5/6

5:00 pm Father Milt
8:00 am Father Stan
10:30 am Father Blaise
6:00 pm Father Milt