

Family Connection

Today's Gospel describes a time of anxiety in the life of Jesus' family. We can imagine their panic and worry as they discovered that Jesus was not with the caravan returning to Nazareth. The Holy Family journeyed with family members and friends because traveling alone was dangerous. When they found Jesus at the Temple, Jesus spoke like a typical adolescent, unsympathetic to his parents' concern. Yet his words teach an important lesson about reducing anxiety in our family life. In essence, Jesus says, "If you had remembered who I am, you would have known where to find me." In their panic, Mary and Joseph had forgotten what had been told to them before Jesus' birth, that their son was the Son of God. Knowing a person well helps reduce our anxieties for them because we can better predict how they will behave, and we know their capacity to handle the challenges life might present to them.

As you gather as a family, have fun playing the game "How well do you know me?" Take turns trying to stump one another by asking family members questions about yourself, such as "What is my favorite memory of a family vacation?" "Given a choice, what dinner menu would I pick?" "If I could travel anywhere in the world, where would I go?" One member of the family might prepare and read the questions aloud as each person writes down the answers. Family members then take turns guessing the answers, playing this game as a quiz show. Observe that one thing about families is that we learn to know each other well.

Taken from www.lovopolapress.com

Message From Father Milt

I would like to extend my thanks to you for the Christmas cards and gifts I received. The words of affirmation that you offered in your notes, and time spent in baking, shopping or monetarily supporting me are all gestures of your love and affection for your pastor. This is a great reward of the priesthood—to be loved and appreciated by the people of God. Know that each of you will be remembered in my prayers, especially at Mass during this Christmas Season! May God bless you.

Father Milt

Academy of Saint Matthias Lottery:



Purchase your raffle tickets from the Hughes Center parish office during regular business hours. Tickets are \$10 each.

Drawings begin Monday, January 4th, 2016

Stewardship Report: Revenue

DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY AND THE EARLY PUBLICATION OF THE BULLETIN, THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR DECEMBER 20TH AND CHRISTMAS DAY WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEKEND'S BULLETIN.



Building and Maintenance Fund: The second collection next weekend is for our regular Building and Maintenance Fund. This monthly collection enables us to make ongoing repairs to our parish and school buildings and grounds.

End of the Year Giving: December 31st marks the end of the 2015 calendar year of charitable contributions for your tax returns this spring. We can credit your annual financial contribution statement to the parish only with gifts received by December 31st. 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.

Looking Ahead

Marathon to Support the Academy of St. Matthias 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://runrocknroll.com/dc>.

Fourth Archdiocesan Women's Conference: On Saturday, February 27, 2016, the Fourth Archdiocesan Women's Conference, "Divine Mercy in Prayer and Action," will be held at Elizabeth Seton High School in Bladensburg, MD, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. There will be an English and Spanish track. The day will also include Mass, Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, a fabulous lunch, and many workshops to choose from. The day will end with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Adoration. For more information, contact Maria Suarez Hamm in the Office of Family Life at 301-853-4499 or at mhamm@adw.org, or visitwww.adw.org/womensconference.

The St. Matthias Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group meets every Sunday in the Church after the 10:30 am Mass. On Thursday, Dec. 31st the group will gather in the Church at 11:30 pm for an hour to pray into the new year. All are welcome.

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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Notes of Thanks

2016 Calendars: Saint Matthias parishioners would like to thank the Beall Funeral Home for providing us with the lovely 2016 wall calendars featuring twelve masterpieces of the Blessed Mother.

Ladies of Charity: The Ladies of Charity extend warm gratitude to those parishioners who contributed to the 2015 Giving Tree project and to the food pantry during the year. Your gift of treasure brightened the lives of many this holiday season.

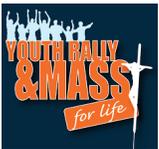
Items of Note

Mass Schedule

- Thursday, Dec. 31st** Daily Mass at 8:30 am
Vigil Mass at **5:00 pm** for the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
- Friday, Jan. 1st** Masses at **8:00 am** and **10:00 am** for the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Missals for Sale: Saint Joseph Missals for 2016 are available for sale in the church vestibule and at the Hughes Center parish office. The cost is \$4.00.

Youth Rally & Mass for Life: The Youth Rally and Mass for Life will be held on Friday, January 22nd, 2016.



Each year on the morning of the National March for Life, thousands gather from around the nation to participate. Tickets are required for entry. For more information and to register for free tickets, please visit <http://YouthRallyandMassforLife.org>.

Knights of Columbus Scholarships: The Maryland State Council and Insurance Advisors of the Knights of Columbus sponsor several Catholic high school scholarships. Saint Matthias teens are encouraged to apply. You may obtain specific information and applications by visiting <http://www.kofc-md.org/>. Applicants will be judged on academic excellence, personal qualifications, and financial need. The application deadline is February 1st.



Women's Day of Reflection will be held at St. Andrew Apostle Church in Silver Spring, MD, on Saturday, January 16th from 8:30 am—4:00 pm. Cost is \$20. Visit <http://standrewapostle.org/day-of-reflection-2016> for more information and registration.



Celebrant Mass Schedule for the Weekend of January 2/3

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



Mass Intentions for the The Octave of Christmas and Christmastide

Monday, December 28: The Holy Innocents

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

Tuesday, December 29: Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop

8:30 am Jose C. Manlapaz

Wednesday, December 30:

8:30 am Nzewili Children (Living)

Thursday, December 31: New Year's Eve

8:30 am Marian Huber
5:00 pm Parishioners of St. Matthias the Apostle

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God A Holy Day of Obligation

Friday, January 1: New Year's Day

8:00 am Orly Marinaccio
10:00am Mass of Thanksgiving to God



Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 2:

5:00 pm Shirley Jean Place

Sunday, January 3:

8:00 am Anne Coakley
10:30 am Ugochukwu Ikedilo
6:00 pm Jack O'Leary

Readings for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2 - 3A, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1 - 12

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

Ronnie Davis; Jack Jordan; Kay Kaderabek; John and Joan Kodak; Joe Makowski; Rocco Martino; Tim O'Leary; Marion Prout; Madeline White, Eugene Zehner

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

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

Holiday Office Hours

The Father Hughes Center parish office will close Wednesday, December 30th at noon and will reopen Monday, January 4th at 8:00 am. Thank you in advance for planning ahead for any needs you may have of our staff.

The Academy of Saint Matthias will reopen Monday, January 4th.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!