

From the Pastor's Desk



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This week's Gospel focuses on the vine. We frequently hear about the "fruit of the vine (wine) in the Gospels- for example, the wedding at Cana- the fruit of the vine (wine) that symbolizes the joy of the feast. We also see in the Old Testament; the vine also symbolizes Israel (Ps 80:9-14). The nation of Israel is brought out of Egypt. Just like a gardener clearing bad branches of a vine, God clears away the others so that the nation of Israel could be rescued from Egypt and led them to the promised land where they could be established, planted.

In today's Gospel, Jesus shares that he is the true vine. Jesus the vine is the true source of life and fruitfulness for his disciples, who are the branches of the vine. The Good News of Christ is that Jesus is the embodiment of the new Israel; He is the embodiment of God's people. Similar to how Israel produced fruit in the Old Testament that is pleasing to God, we too can grow in strength and faith if we conduct ourselves like branches of Jesus. We must remain in him to be attached to our true source of life.

This week you may have received a letter from the Archbishop and a letter from me, your pastor asking for support of the Annual Catholic Appeal. I hope and pray that you will respond with joy. Just as in the Gospel, we are reminded that we are connected to each other through Christ, so is St Matthew a branch of the Archdiocese of Seattle. Our donation to this appeal supports over 60 ministries in our Archdiocese. Without your support, the Archdiocese would not succeed and be fruitful because there are very limited other sources for funding.

Your gift is especially important to me. I remember when I came to the United States, I did not have any financial resources to pay for the seminary to study to become a priest. My family could not afford to pay for my studies. Because of your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal, I did not have to worry about finances to pay my tuition. I was able to focus on my studies. I am personally thankful for your generosity. Please support the Annual Catholic Appeal so that many seminarians, like I was once, do not have to worry about financing their education. The appeal also supports retired priests in the Archdiocese who have worked hard, dedicating their lives in service. As one family in Christ, we should support them as well. Please fill out a card in the pews, the card that was mailed to your home or visit our webpage for the link online.

Your Servant in Christ,
Fr Khanh D. Nguyen, Pastor

ATTENTION ALL COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE HEADS Please email your requested meeting dates and locations (1st & 2nd choices) to the Parish Office no later than April 30. We need to finalize the calendar schedule for the coming calendar year, July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019.

❖ DAILY MASS TIMES & READINGS ❖

Monday, April 30, St. Pius V, Acts 14:5-18; Gosp John 14:21-26 - Mass at 8:45 am

Tuesday, May 1, Acts 14:19-28; Gosp John 14:27-31a - no morning Mass

Wednesday, May 2, Acts 15:1-6; Gosp John 15:1-8 - Mass at 8:45 am

Thursday, May 3, St. Philip, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Gosp John 14:6-14 - Mass at 8:45 am

Friday, May 4, Acts 15:22-31; Gosp John 15:12-17 - Mass at 8:45 am

Saturday, May 5, St. Hilary of Arles, Acts 16:1-10; Gosp John 15:18-21 - Mass at 8:45 am

6th Sunday of Easter, May 6, Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Gosp John 15:19-17

BE SURE TO READ THE MAY CALENDAR INSERT IN THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PLANT SALE will be after both Sunday Masses on May 6 in the Community Center. Dahlia tubers & starts, tomato plants & various other flower & veggie plants for your garden. Proceeds benefit our own St. Vincent de Paul ministry in the parish.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL "STUFF THE TRUCK" EVENT is Sunday, May 6. The truck will be in the west St. Matthew parking lot from 8 am to 2:30pm. The greatest need is for furniture in good shape, men's jeans, shirts and shoes, women's business clothes and small household items. Unfortunately, mattresses and beds cannot be accepted.

STAFF OPENING AT ST. MATTHEW PARISH FOR OUR PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Please see the parish website for a full job description: www.stmatthewseattle.org This position serves as administrative assistant to the Pastor. Other responsibilities include Safe Environment Program coordinator, Parish Communications, Finance and Data Processing. This position serves as the initial point of contact for visitors to the parish office. The successful candidate will have a commitment to the mission of the Catholic Church, experience in an office setting, including computer skills and a positive attitude. This position is 35 hours a week with benefits. Salary DOE. If you or anyone you know is interested, please send a resume and Archdiocese Employment Application form to the parish office attention Fr. Khanh or email office@stmatthewseattle.org.

PARTY! PARTY! PARTY PLANNING If you are interested in helping with planning the celebration for Jean Cooney's retirement party on Saturday, June 16 please contact Jennifer Wong in the parish office.

Sacred Story - Week 30

Choose the time and place for your 15-minute prayer time.

- ♦ We continue our lessons on Spiritual Discernment. We take “reading time.”
- ♦ Review the commitment to develop a rhythm of prayer that will carry us for the rest of our life.
- ♦ Spend no more/no less than 15 minutes for Sacred Story prayer on the meditations one through five.

Week 30

- ♦ Week 30 begins to introduce further spiritual discernment and the “personal archeology” of Part 1 starts to take on a new significance!
- ♦ We need to digest these principles slowly, while continuing their practice of daily *Sacred Story Prayer* of the five words/concepts.
- ♦ The discernment lessons can sometimes prompt unexpected reactions, causing anxiety about making immediate changes to one’s life.
- ♦ Immediate change is not from the Divine Inspirer. We “go slow” and trust that the Holy Spirit.
- ♦ The Holy Spirit will reveal if there is need for adjustments in life and will do so at an appropriate time!

Affirmation

“Inspirations are from a divine or demonic source. I pray for the grace to remember how to discern one from the other.”

Information

- ♦ **Corrected date:** the next Sacred Story gathering is Monday, May 7, 7pm, Parish Office Library. All are welcome!
- ♦ If you wish to receive regular e-mail contact marycross@aol.com and msloane@comcast.net

A FREE DATE NIGHT? Yes, it’s true! On next Saturday, May 5, St. Matthew will host the final Marriage Enrichment Evening of the year in the Community Center right after the 5 pm Mass for a light meal before the presentation at 6:30pm. Register online @<http://marriageenrichment.info/> or call Mike & Maureen Sloane at 206-419-7695. See the flyer in this week’s bulletin.

ARE YOU WILLING TO BE A LECTOR? Lectors proclaim the Word of the Lord at all Masses. Lectors, depending on availability, are normally asked to serve once a month at the Mass of their choice. As lectors are not always available due to family or work requirements, it may be necessary for lectors to be scheduled more often than once a month. Currently 4 lectors serve at the Saturday 5 pm Mass; 9 lectors for the 8 am Mass and 6 lectors for the 10 am Mass. More volunteers are needed at all Masses especially the Saturday 5 pm and Sunday 10 am. If you are willing to become a lector, please contact Frank dos Remedios at boofar@comcast.net or 206-363-1938. Training will be provided. Please prayerfully consider this appeal as your parish needs you.

St. Matthew School News

Karen Herlihy, Principal, 206-362-2785 ext. 102,

kherlihy@stmattschool.org

Andy Hews, Administrative Assistant, 206-362-2785, ext. 101, ahews@stmattschool.org

“Excellence – Diversity – Community”

Now Enrolling for 2018 - 2019 St. Matthew School is now enrolling for Pre-K, Kindergarten, elementary school and middle school for the 2018-2019 school year. St. Matthew School provides academic excellence and diversity in a community of faith. Come see what we have to offer! Tours available weekly; contact Stacy Pretti at spretti@stmattschool.org or (206) 362-2785, ext. 103.

GiveBIG May 9 - Give Directly to St. Matthew School Instead Planning to GiveBIG this year on May 9? This is the last year that the Seattle Foundation will be sponsoring this community day of giving and they are no longer providing a matching fund pool. St. Matthew School is not participating with GiveBIG on May 9, but if you would like to give to St. Matthew School and have more of your dollars go straight to our school without their fees, please donate directly at www.stmattschool.org. Thank you!

ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL FUNDRAISER is an all-day event at MOD Pizza, 17171 Bothell Way N.E., Ste. A004, Lake Forest Park, on Monday, May 7. St. Matt’s will receive 20% of all sales when customers present a printed or digital version of the flyer which will be in next week’s parish bulletin. A digital copy is available through the school website. Please tell friends, family, neighbors and anyone who loves pizza. Thank you for your support!

THE 27TH ANNUAL RAINBOW HERITAGE FESTIVAL is Saturday, May 19 from 12:30 - 4:30 pm. Share your cultural heritage by donating a pan of food. Contact Rachel de Castro at rcdecastro@mac.com or 206-551-4558. Pans will be available at Coffee Hour starting April 29. Volunteers also needed! Please contact Elaine Abarientos at eabarientos@hotmail.com or 206-355-3392 for more information

CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS is a weekly group who meets every Sunday, 11:20 am - 12:30 pm in the Parish Office Library. See the insert in this week’s bulletin for details.

APRIL 2018 COLLECTION

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Difference</u>
4/22/18 collection (incl. online giving)	\$ 7,468	\$ 9,680	\$ <2,212>
Year-to-date	\$ 450,930	\$ 420,636	\$ 30,294

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The good steward lives the advice of St. John, loving in deed and in truth, rather than just talking about it.