

From the Pastor's Desk



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This week is the last Sunday of Ordinary time before we begin our journey in the season of Lent. In the Gospel of Mark, we witness Jesus healing a leper in the course of his public ministry. Being healed of leprosy is great news not only for the leper, also for his family and friends. Having leprosy in the time reflected in the Gospel had severe societal ramifications. There was great emotional pain that accompanied leprosy, as by law lepers could not live with their family or community. That is why after being healed Jesus sent the leper to show himself to the priest (in the Temple). By proving that he is healed of leprosy to a leader in the community, he could be admitted back into society. Jesus' miracle healed and reunited the leper's family and community.

How do we relate to this today? In Jesus' time leprosy was impossible to heal because they did not know the cause or a cure. In our time, science and medicine has changed the impact of leprosy. However, the devastation of leprosy can still be witnessed. In 2006, just after I was ordained a priest, I visited Vietnam. I had a chance to visit small town in which leper people live. Before we got to the gate of the town, I saw a tomb. People told me in the tomb was buried a bishop, who served leper people and lived with them. This bishop had been on a mission in this town, when the time of his mission was completed he had the opportunity to return to Paris. Instead of returning, he decided to stay and serve those in the town until his death. I was moved and inspired, by this bishop's dedication to serve those in need and his sacrifice.

By this bishop's example and by Jesus' example in the Gospel, we should not turn away from those who need us. Even when it makes our lives and work more challenging. In the Gospel "the man went away and began to publicize the whole matter." (Even though the Jesus told him not to). "He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly."

Today in our society and culture while we do not readily see leprosy in its physical form, we, however, see diseases that have a similar impact. These are societal diseases such as discrimination, exclusion, bullying, bashing and shaming. These diseases divide our communities and ostracize us from each other. To be like Jesus we need to stay with others, open our hearts to concern for others, and work hard to ensure that all people can find peace and a place in our community.

Especially as we enter into the season of Lent starting this week at Ash Wednesday, may we all do our part. Wherever we are, may we continue Jesus' ministry of healing and compassion in our world.

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

❖ DAILY MASS TIMES & READINGS ❖

**Monday, February 12, St. Julian the Hospitaller,** James 1:1-11; Gosp Mark 8:11-13 - **Mass at 8:45 am**

**Tuesday, February 13, St. Catherine de Ricci,** James 1:12-18; Gosp Mark 8:14-21- **no morning Mass**

**Ash Wednesday, February 14,** Joel 2:12-18; Gosp Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 – **Masses at 9 am & 7 pm**

**Thursday, February 15, St. Claude la Colombiere,** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Gosp Luke 9:22-25 – **Mass at 8:45 am**

**Friday, February 16, St. Onesimus,** Isaiah 58:1-9a; Gosp Matthew 9:14-15 – **Mass at 8:45 am**

**Saturday, February 17, St. Alexis Falconieri,** Isaiah 58:9b-14; Gosp Luke 5:27-32 - **Mass at 8:45 am**

**Sunday, February 18, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent,** Genesis 9:8-15; Gosp Mark 1:12-15

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES ON FEBRUARY 14 WILL BE AT 9 AM AND 7 PM** There is no Soup Supper.

**RICE BOWL** Join our faith community and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States, in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up a Family Rice Bowl in the Church entrance. During Lent, as companions on the journey, we will encounter our neighbor.

**THE CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL** will take place next weekend. Please see insert in today's bulletin. Envelopes are at ends of the pews.

**GOT CEREAL?** Our St. Vincent de Paul food bank is in need breakfast cereal. This is something we send out every week in our food bags and our supply is running low. Thank you for your support.

**SOUPER SUNDAY RESULTS** Going against the professional odds makers, our SVDP donors foretold an Eagles victory by contributing 71% of our total haul for our 9<sup>th</sup> annual "Souper Sunday" celebration. Our record is 6 and 3 but more importantly upholds the odds of St. Matt's being there for our neighbors in need. Thank you for your support!

**REQUEST** Every year the Archdiocese honors priests who are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination. This year the honorees include **Fr. Gordon Douglas** who is being honored at a special banquet during Priest Days this June. Would you share some photos of Fr. Douglas during his time at St. Matthew? We are looking for candid photos of him in various ministries. These photos will be displayed in a slideshow for his brother priests during the banquet. Please send photos to [robin.kreul@seattlearch.org](mailto:robin.kreul@seattlearch.org) as soon as convenient, but at the latest by Mary 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Sacred Story – Week 19

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

- ♦ Establishing the ritual is vital to your discipline of prayer.
- ♦ We are making a life habit our daily prayer.
- ♦ Spiritual exercises need to be regular, focused and open to Grace.

#### Week 19

- ♦ Week 19 invites a new prayer skill – combining two of the words in *Sacred Story Prayer*, **CREATION** and **PRESENCE**.
- ♦ We are learning to discern God’s voice, speaking to us, in our prayer.
- ♦ We pray with both words, letting the Spirit moves us.
- ♦ *Sacred Story Prayer* teaches us a detailed framework while letting God speak to us. The Spirit is always the best teacher!
- ♦ Once we have used the framework to focus and quiet our minds and hearts—the Spirit leads. Ask for help from the Holy Spirit at all times!
- ♦ Bookmarks for Week 16, the framework of Sacred Story Prayer, are available on the bulletin board near the Church entrance.

**Affirmation** *“There are just two ways to cope with my difficulties. One leads to life, one to death. I will choose life.*”

#### Information

- ♦ The next Sacred Story Gathering is March 5 at 7 pm in the Parish Office Lower Level.
- ♦ If you wish to receive regular e-mail contact [marycross@aol.com](mailto:marycross@aol.com) and [msloane@comcast.net](mailto:msloane@comcast.net)

**SOUP SUPPER SCHEDULE:** ♦ Wed., Feb. 21: Filipino Families ♦ Wed., Feb. 28 - Pastoral and Finance Councils ♦ Wed. March 7 - St. Vincent/Funeral Ministry/Liturgy/Peace Guild ♦ Wed. March 14 - School Commission/Parents Club/Cub Scouts ♦ Wed., March 21 - Knights of Columbus. All donations will go to our Rice Bowl Collection.

**NORTH HELPLINE EMERGENCY SERVICES & FOOD BANK** is hosting its annual Empty Bowls silent auction fundraiser on Sunday, February 25, 1-4 pm at St. Matthew Community Center. Empty Bowls is a unique event including a gift of hand-crafted bowl for every guest and meals, including soup from local restaurants, salad, bread and dessert. A hallmark of this event which our supporters look forward to each year is the silent auction. Visit [www.northhelpline.org](http://www.northhelpline.org) for more info. Your neighbors at North Helpline hope to see you there!

**UNITED WAY IS OFFERING FREE TAX PREPARATION ONLINE** and at 30 locations throughout King County. To find a location near you, languages available, a list of what to bring, and other details, visit [www.FreeTaxExperts.org](http://www.FreeTaxExperts.org) or call 2-1-1.

### St. Matthew School News

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

[kherlihy@stmattschool.org](mailto:kherlihy@stmattschool.org)

**Andy Hews, Administrative Assistant**, 206-362-2785, ext. 101, [ahews@stmattschool.org](mailto:ahews@stmattschool.org)

**“Excellence – Diversity – Community”**

**Monopoly Gala Auction** Please attend the St. Matthew School Gala Auction on Saturday, March 3. The theme this year is Monopoly, so get ready to play at this great



fundraiser and party. You can register online at <http://stmattschool.maestroweb.com/> or buy tickets at coffee hour. New this year! We will have a 50/50 raffle in addition to our Best of Live Raffle. 50/50 Raffle - Win half the pot, up to \$10,000. Tickets are \$100 each and only 200 will be sold. Winning ticket will be drawn at the auction, but you do not need to be present to win. Best of Live Raffle – Tickets are \$50 each and only 100 tickets will be sold. Winning ticket holder will be able to choose any Live Auction item. You need not be present to win the Best of Live Raffle. Tickets are on sale after Sunday Masses when auction tickets are sold and at the auction; or contact Stacy Pretti at [spretti@stmattschool.org](mailto:spretti@stmattschool.org).

### THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN OUR COMMUNITY: WHAT FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW

Our communities are struggling with opiate misuse and addiction, including fentanyl, heroin & prescription opioids. Join us to hear from Melissa Weiksner, author of *Heroin’s Puppet*. Learn about the disease of addiction, current trends in our culture, options for treatment & recovery and how the crisis may impact your family and community. At St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Sunday, February 25th, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, 814 NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle. RSVP: Trez Buckland, [bucklandmike@hotmail.com](mailto:bucklandmike@hotmail.com) or 206-930-2739

**STRESSED & BLESSED** This Sunday, February 11, North Seattle Catholic Youth “Stressed and Blessed Series” continues at St. Catherine Parish 814 NE 85th Street ► Middle School: 5 pm ► Fellowship Meal: 6:15 pm ► High School: 7:00 pm. Visit <https://nseattlecatholicyouth.org/> or contact Kate Brown at [kate@nseattlecatholicyouth.org](mailto:kate@nseattlecatholicyouth.org).

### Sunday Env/Loose/Holy Days

	<u>2/4/2018</u>	<u>YTD 2/4/2018</u>
Budgeted	\$ 10,050	\$ 318,050
Collected	\$ 10,151	\$ 321,927
Difference	\$ 101	\$ 3,877



In today’s second reading, St. Paul urges the Corinthians to “do all for the glory of God.” If we follow that advice in everything we do, we cannot help but be good stewards!