

From the Pastor's Desk



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On the first Sunday of Lent, we are invited to reflect on our personal need for a change of heart, knowing the fulfillment God's promise of salvation is coming at Easter. Lent gives us forty days to reflect and act toward change.

What is the significance of forty days of Lent? After his baptism "Jesus remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan." (Mk 1:12) Forty days is a long- honored Israelite tradition seen especially in the Old Testament. The Hebrew people were tested for forty days; the prophet Elijah was tested for forty days. Jesus' time in the desert followed this tradition and was a test of character for Him to prove that He was ready to carry out God's Covenant.

As Catholics, what can we do during Lent to show that we have *character*? That we are ready to carry the Good News of God's presence in the world? In the end of Sunday's Gospel, Jesus goes out to begin ministry. He went into his hometown of Galilee proclaiming: "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand" (Mk 1:15). Jesus is declaring "the time is now, follow My example."

The Gospel also mentions that while Jesus was in the desert "He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him." (Mk 1:13) The "beasts" are those people or events that challenge our resolve, preventing us from proving our *character*. The "angels" are those that support and encourage us. In our day-to-day it is easy to give in to the "wild beasts" and give up. Jesus challenges us to change our usual way of life, if only for forty days, to prove that we believe in the Gospel and have the *character* to live according to the Gospel.

Living according to the Gospel means to act, not merely giving lip-service. During Lent we prove our character by Fasting, Almsgiving, and focusing on Prayer. Most of us giving up something during Lent (Fast) or doing charity – rice-bowl (Almsgiving). I encourage you to also boost your prayer life: go to daily mass during Lent either 8:45AM or 6:30PM (Wednesdays), go to Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6:30PM. Most importantly during Lent, live out the Gospel by treating people with love, dignity and care.

Please see the posters in the church, the bulletin or the parish webpage for more information about St Matthew's Lent and Easter schedules. There are Lent cards in the pews to help foster your commitment to Fasting, Almsgiving, and Prayer.

In addition to the start of Lent, this week is the celebration of the Lunar New Year. This is especially significant to me and to those from the Vietnamese and Chinese cultures. When I was a young student, I looked forward to this week of celebration because we did not have school for ten days. Also, I remember Lunar New Year celebration would start with us going to Mass and then coming home as we waited patiently for our parents to give us "Li Xi" money, which we children used to buy new clothes and books for school.

We would spend our days celebrating the coming of spring with special meals and visiting relatives. During these visits we would ask them for blessings for the whole year ahead and they would give us "Red Envelopes" containing lucky money. I have fond

memories of my family enjoying curry chicken dip with French bread, or sticky rice. We also ate "Banh Trung" and "Banh Tet" sticky rice cakes made with sticky rice, green beans and bacon.

Finally, I would like to thank those who helped to plan and serve at the Parish Appreciation Dinner. Also, Congratulations to our honorees:

- Jean Cooney celebrating 50 years of being a staff member of St. Matthew Parish. She was honored with the gift of airfare to Hawaii for a well-deserved vacation and a special letter from the Archbishop of Seattle
- 2017 Fr. Power award winners: Mike and Maureen Sloane.
- All those who are in active ministry here at St. Matthew.

May God bless you for your dedication and service.

Your Servant in Christ,

Fr Khanh D. Nguyen, Pastor

❖ DAILY MASS TIMES & READINGS ❖

Monday, February 19, St. Conrad of Piacenza, Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Gosp Matthew 25:31-46 - **Mass at 8:45 am**

Tuesday, February 20, St. Wulfric, Isaiah 55:10-11; Gosp Matthew 6:7-15- **no morning Mass**

Wednesday, February 21, St. Peter Damian, Jonah 3:1-10; Gosp Luke 11:29-32 – **Mass at 8:45 am & 6:30 pm**

Thursday, February 22, St. Margaret of Cortona, 1 Pt 5:1-4; Gosp Matthew 16:13-19 – **Mass at 8:45 am**

Friday, February 23, St. Polycarp, Ezekiel 18:21-28; Gosp Matthew 5:20-26– **Mass at 8:45 am**

Saturday, February 24, St. Montanus, Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Gosp Matthew 5:43-48 - **Mass at 8:45 am**

Sunday, February 25, 2nd Sunday of Lent, Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Gosp Mark 9:2-10

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY for the Presidents Day Holiday.



RICE BOWL Visit crsricebowl.org and pick up a Family's Rice Bowl in the Church entrance.

THANK YOU SO MUCH for the memorable celebration at last Saturday's Ministry Dinner. The past 50 years of serving at St. Matthew Parish have been a wonderful part of my life... **Jean Cooney**

THIS WEEK'S SOUP SUPPER is on Wednesday, February, 21, 7 pm sponsored by Filipino Families All donations will go to our Rice Bowl Collection.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The Leptich Family is caring for Jane at home. She is in hospice care. 15-20 family members gather every night after work. Any help with the evening meal, ¾ times a week, would be very much appreciated. A casserole and salad would be more than adequate. To coordinate donations, please call Dan Leptich at 206-769-4253. Thank you so much for any help.

Sacred Story - Week 20

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

- ♦ Every day enter into your Sacred Story prayer at set times. Establishing the ritual is vital to your discipline of prayer.
- ♦ If you decided on one period, you are free at any time to switch to two, and vice versa. We are making a life habit our daily prayer.
- ♦ The five concepts we are learning will provide a framework for our daily prayer

Week 20

- ♦ **Memory** is the concept we will pray over this week.
- ♦ Every violation of love committed by me and against me is in my memory.

We ask God to reveal our memories so that we can be healed of our wounds and sins.

- ♦ We can move beyond what has broken our hearts and lost innocence.
- ♦ Our Memory hold the treasure of another opportunity for healing, recovery and letting go of the burdens of the past.

Affirmation

"Impossible" is not a word in God's vocabulary.

Information

- ♦ Next Sacred Story Gathering is March 5, 7 pm in the Parish Office Library.
- ♦ The Sacred Story Gatherings support the daily prayer and will be discussing the ministry of Sacred Story Prayer in the parish.
- ♦ If you wish to receive regular e-mail contact marycross@aol.com and msloane@comcast.net

A GOOD BREAKFAST We continue to need cereal for the St. Vincent de Paul food bank. This is something we send out every week in our food bags and our supply is running low. Thank you for your support.

SAVE THE DATE. The 27th Annual Rainbow Heritage Festival will be Saturday, May 19, from 12:30 – 4:30 pm. Join us for the next planning meeting on Tuesday, February 27, at 7 pm in the Community Center Conference Room.

NORTH SEATTLE CATHOLIC YOUTH. ▶ "Lent Service Project" - We invite students to make this Lent special. One way to do that is by joining to make sandwiches for the homeless on Wednesdays at 6 pm at St. Catherine's Kitchens (in Victoria Hall). Also, mark your calendars for the Junior High Rally on March 10 a day designed to celebrate Catholic youth (in grades 6-9) Registration opened February 14. For more information on N Seattle Catholic Youth, please contact Kate Brown, Youth Ministry Director at kate@nseattlecatholicyouth.org or 206-488-5970.

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"

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 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.

SAVE THE DATES! The 2018 Marriage Enrichment Evenings are coming to St. Matthew's! Saturdays-March 17, April 14 and May 5th. See the enclosed flyer for more information!

REQUEST Every year the Archdiocese honors priests who are celebrating their 50th 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 as soon as convenient, but at the latest by May 15.

Sunday Env/Loose/Holy Days

	<u>2/11/2018</u>	<u>YTD 2/11/2018</u>
Budgeted	\$ 10,050	\$ 318,050
Collected	\$ 11,061	\$ 321,927
Difference	\$ 101	\$ 3,877



The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. But the bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental obligation arising from the Sacrament of Baptism...that people place their gifts, their resources---their selves – at God's service in and through the Church."