

From the Pastor's Desk



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus calls four of the men who will be his constant companions as he goes about preaching the Kingdom of God in Israel. But Jesus does not make the same demand of everyone. Many of his disciples, among them Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, Zacchaeus, and people whom he cures of their infirmities remain in their villages.

In the same way, many Christians today are called to serve full-time in the work of evangelization, but the majority give witness to their faith as they go their day-to-day activities at work or at home. One way of participating in the task of evangelization is not necessarily better than the other. Neither is it an indication that one will be a better disciple than another person who chooses a different path.

Judas follows Jesus as one of the Twelve Apostles closest to the Lord and yet ends up betraying him. In all probability, Mary remains in Nazareth, yet she is blessed not only as the mother of Jesus but also as his "faithful disciple" because of her unwavering response to God's word. Ultimately, what is important is not what Jesus asks us to do but how we respond to his call.

Our response should be marked by *urgency* and *a breaking off* from our present concerns. In the First Reading, the prophet Jonah is sent to warn Nineveh of God's impending judgment. The Ninevites believe. They proclaim a fast and turn from their wicked way. In the Gospel, the four fishermen abandon their nets as soon as they hear Jesus' call.

What could have prompted the first disciples to follow Jesus? While nothing is explicitly mentioned in the gospels, we may assume that they were attracted by Jesus' authority. The apostle chosen "out of time," Saul of Tarsus (Act 9:4,11,15-16), speaks of being possessed by Christ. Something of that power, easily perceived in the resurrected Christ appears to the person we will come to know as Paul the apostle to the Gentiles (Act 9:15; 13:9), is evident even during his public ministry.

Christ has already won salvation for us. We are called to receive and proclaim this salvation. We cannot but say yes to his call right now.

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

THE FUNERAL MASS for Tommy Kobayashi will be on Saturday, January 27, at 10:30 am followed by a reception in the Community Center.

ST. MATTHEW ANNUAL CRAB DINNER Saturday, February 3 is the thirteenth parish annual Crab Dinner. Tickets (\$40) are on sale in the Community Center on Sundays at the Coffee Hour and at the Parish Office during office hours. Proceeds from the event will be used for maintenance of the church.

❖ READINGS FOR THE WEEK ❖

Monday, January 22, St. Vincent the Deacon, 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10; Gosp Mark 3:22-30 - **Mass at 8:45 am**

Tuesday, January 23, St. John the Almoner, 2 Samuel 6:12b-15, 17-19; Gosp Mark 3:31-35 - **no morning Mass**

Wednesday, January 24, St. Francis de Sales, 2 Samuel 7:4-17; Gosp Mark 4:1-20 – **Mass at 8:45 am**

Thursday, January 25, St. Paul, Acts 22:3-16; Gosp Mark 16:15-18 – **Mass at 8:45 am**

Friday, January 26, St. Timothy, 2 Timothy 1:1-8; Gosp Mark 4:26-34 – **Mass at 8:45 am**

Saturday, January 27, St. Angela Merici, 2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Gosp Mark 4:35-41 - **Mass at 8:45 am**

Sunday, January 28, 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Deuteronomy 18:51-28; Gosp Mark 1:21-28

NORTHWEST CATHOLIC COLLECTION will take place next weekend. Please read the insert in today's bulletin. Envelopes are at the ends of the pew.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL QUARTERLY REPORT

With the generous monetary and food bank support of St. Matthew parishioners, we have been able to respond to our neighbors' request for help in the last quarter of 2017. 223 home visits to 120 households comprising 597 people; 353 bags of food; \$7,443 in help with rent and utilities; \$343 worth of beds delivered to homes; \$2,870 in vouchers or Fred Meyer gift cards. Vouchers are written to one of the SVDP stores to be redeemed for what the stores carry, generally clothing and household items. Fred Meyer gift cards are intended for perishable items whole milk and eggs.

SOUPER SUNDAY IS GETTING CLOSER

"Can" you predict who wins the Super Bowl this year and support our SVDP Food Bank? Our 9th annual Souper Sunday will take place on Feb 4. If you are an AFC fan donate cans of tomato soup and NFC fans donate chicken soup. Regardless of the outcome of the game we know our neighbors in need will be the real winners. (By the way, our prediction record is 5-3.)

Stressed & Blessed Putting *Jesus in the Center of Your Overwhelming Life*

Teens are busy and life can be overwhelming. Catholic Youth wants to help. Join us as we talk about what's stressing you out, give some tools to manage your stress, and most importantly, share how you can be a saint in the middle of the everyday stress of life. Sundays: January 21 to February 11 at St. Catherine Parish 814 NE 85th Street

Middle School: 5:00 pm; Fellowship Meal: 6:15 pm;

High School: 7:00 pm. For more information, to go

<https://nseattlecatholicyouth.org/> or contact Kate

Brown, Youth Ministry Director at

kate@nseattlecatholicyouth.org or 206-488-5970.

Sacred Story-Week 16

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 of our daily prayer. Spiritual exercises need to be regular, focused and open to Grace.

Week 16

- ♦ This week's exercise introduces the prayer disciplines that will support the structure of Sacred Story prayer forms for the next weeks.
- ♦ When you have experienced the Whole Life Confession, the regular use of Reconciliation becomes a context for healing and renewal. Regular Reconciliation is encouraged.
- ♦ Continue learning/practicing the Prayer concepts, whether you have done your Whole Life Confession or not.
- ♦ There are daily opportunities to experience new disciplines of prayer that will continue to be of value beyond the 40 Weeks.

Affirmation

"The pathways of God's peace and healing run through my brokenness, sin, fear, anger and grief."

Information

- ♦ The next Sacred Story Gathering is February 5, 7:00pm at the Parish Office Library. All are welcome.
- ♦ Contact Fr. Nguyen for an appointment to make your Whole Life Confession
- ♦ If you wish to receive regular e-mail contact marycross@aol.com and msloane@comcast.net

THE 27TH ANNUAL RAINBOW HERITAGE FESTIVAL will be Saturday, May 19, from 12:30 – 4:30 pm. Join us for the first planning meeting on Tuesday, January 23, at 7 pm in the Community Center Conference Room. We welcome your ideas for entertainment, food donations, and crafts. Email Elaine Abarientos at eabarientos@hotmail.com with questions or to volunteer. Thank you.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE After months of hard work, we are delighted to officially announce the launch of our renewed website: www.stmatthewseattle.org. Our goal with this new website is to provide an easier way to learn about what is happening at St. Matthew and we are especially proud of our calendar feature which allows visitors to view sub calendars and to submit calendar requests in the Contact section. We hope you find the new website fresh and modern; we worked hard to make sure it contains valuable information. Please check back here for more features as we continue to update our new webpage. For any questions, suggestions, feedback or comments, please E-mail us at office@stmatthewseattle.org P.S. Please like and follow us on Facebook: [@stmatthewparishseattle](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewparishseattle).

St. Matthew School News

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

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

"Excellence – Diversity – Community"

Open House Sunday, January 28 Please invite friends and family to our winter Open House on January 28 from 11 am to 12:30 pm. Come explore all that St. Matthew School has to offer: • Academic excellence in an environment of community and diversity • Affordable before and after school care (\$4.50 per hour) • Music, art, library and fitness • Sports • Summer camp program. We also have a limited number of openings in our Pre-K program NOW for 4 and 5 year olds. Private tours available. Email spretti@stmattschool.org.

Save the Date for the St. Matthew School Gala Auction on Saturday, March 3. The theme this year is **MONOPOLY** at this great fundraiser and party. Have items or services to donate to the auction? Donation forms are available in the school hallway or online at <http://www.stmattschool.org/procurement.html> and items can be delivered to the school office. **NEW ITEMS ONLY**, please. Thank you!



Catholic Schools Week January 28 to February 2 Catholic Schools Week will begin with 10 am Mass on Sunday, January 28, followed by an all-school open house in the school and reception in the Community Center to honor our Distinguished Graduate and Young Alumni award winners. Please join us!

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER? Join us for this presentation which will include a description of the symptoms of Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) and the theory regarding its development. An evidence-based treatment for BPD and related issues, called Dialectical Behavior Therapy, will also be discussed. Resources for BPD treatment and support will be provided. Please join us for this presentation at St. Catherine Parish, Thursday, January 25, 7:15-9 pm, Victoria Hall, 814 NE 85 Street, Seattle.

JANUARY 2018 COLLECTION

	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
Jan. 7	\$ 9,607	\$ 10,025	< \$ 418 >
YTD	\$ 282,368	\$ 289,567	< \$ 7,199 >



There is a certain urgency in today's Gospel as Jesus calls his first disciples --- Andrew and Simon, James and John. Each one follows Jesus immediately, unhesitatingly abandoning nets and boats and father and fellow-workers. To what is Jesus calling me --- at this moment, in these circumstances? What will I need to abandon in order to follow Him?