

Holy Week

If you have a Mass intention scheduled while Masses are suspended, the Mass intention will be moved to a later date, and you will be notified of the change. If you need a Mass intention for a critical reason such as a serious illness, surgery, or a death in the family, Father Jack will offer a private Mass for your intention.

For Parish News and Updates,
Visit the Parish Website at
www.stmatthias.org

Follow Father Jack (Jack Kennealy) on Facebook
and on The Church of St. Matthias Facebook Page

How Do I Make a Spiritual Communion?

Below are recommendations to make a 'spiritual communion' when unable to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The recommendations can be adapted based upon personal and family needs.

- Gather with others in your household and begin a time of prayer with the sign of the cross.
- Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass. The readings are available at usccb.org/bible/readings and a Sunday Gospel reflection on youtube.com/washarchdiocese.
- Share prayer intentions quietly or aloud.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer.
- Pray one of the prayers of spiritual communion (Go to adw.org) to view prayers.
- Close with the sign of the cross.

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

Elaine Brooks; Muriel Brown; Yvette Butler; Rose Chisefsky; Chunyere Duru; Helen Dzduduch; Patricia Farland; Michele Feaster; John Graham; Genevieve Greenfield; William Halbe; Jan Jarus; George Johnson; Joseph Johnson; John and Joan Kodak; Cathy Pielmeier; Adelino "Babe" Pereira; Evelyn Turley; Peggy Wills; Mae Young; Sister Giustina Zanin; Ziara Zanin; Don Zehner; Rita and Eugene Zehner

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

To add or remove a name from the sick list, please call the parish office at 301-459-4814 x 201.

A Message From the Pastor

I will continue to hear confessions on an individual basis. Please give me a call at (301) 459-4814 ext. 229 and leave a message. The chapel is still open, and I will consider opening the church during the day for prayer and reflection as we approach Easter. Obviously, if you are sick or coughing, please, in charity, DO NOT COME to the church. If you are in the church or chapel, please maintain a 6 feet minimum distance from others, consistent with safety guidelines.

The parish office is now closed and will remain so until we are directed otherwise. Our staff is working on site and from home, and will respond to phone messages and emails.

Our fixed costs remain, and I thank you for using your envelopes or Faith Direct. Feel free to mail your contribution or drop your envelopes in the mail slot of the door to the Hughes Center.

Please pray for Fr. Canice and me and be assured of our prayers for you during this most somber Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Jack Kennealy

Sign Up for FlockNote

To receive timely news, updates, and words of encouragement from our pastor, Father Jack, sign up for FlockNote. You may choose to receive texts, emails, or both. It's easy to sign-up. Go to: <https://app.flocknote.com/find>.



Parish Staff Contact Information

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Stewardship Report

Thank you for your prayers and support during this difficult time. Our fixed costs remain while Masses and parish events are suspended. We depend on your regular contributions to meet our financial obligations.



The Academy of Saint Matthias

Attention, Parents of Currently Enrolled Students: We are accepting applications for all grades (Pre-K 3 through Grade 8) for the 2020-2021 school year. The registration fee is \$ 350 per family

School Tours are offered on Mondays from 8:30-10:00 AM when school is in session, or by appointment. Please contact the school office at 301-577-9412 to plan your tour.

Family Connection

Palm, or Passion, Sunday begins the most sacred week of the Church year—Holy Week. During these days, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerful reflection upon the events of Jesus' Passion and death. You might display a crucifix in a prominent place this week, as reminder of the salvation Christ won for us. The crucifix can also be the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.

Because of the length and complexity of the Passion narrative, young children have difficulty remaining attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can choose to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a "way of the cross."

Each day during Holy Week, the family can gather in a prayerful space with a crucifix as the focal point. The Passion as found in Matthew's Gospel might be read as follows throughout the week.

After reading from the Gospel each night, the family might reflect on the reading together. Conclude your prayer time together by praying the Lord's Prayer and/or singing an appropriate hymn, such as "Jesus, Jesus," "Were You There?" or "What Wondrous Love Is This."



Archdiocese of Washington

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many questions have arisen about receiving sacraments in a time of significant concern about the coronavirus. In ordinary circumstances Catholics are expected to actively seek the sacraments in the usual way the church offers them. However, there are times when the Sacraments cannot be given due to extraordinary circumstances such as extreme weather, natural disasters or plague. In some parts of the world, too, priests are not routinely available. In such cases Catholics should be reassured that the desire to receive the sacraments is, itself a way to receive the Sacrament. God does not ask of us the impossible or unreasonable. There is a long tradition stretching back to the good thief on the cross of the "baptism of desire." Jesus assured him of paradise even though he could not, at that moment, receive baptism in the usual way. In these times of pandemic, we have also had to rediscover the tradition of spiritual Communion. When the faithful cannot reasonably receive Holy Communion, they are encouraged to express their desire for it to the Lord and be assured that, in their desire for Holy communion sincerely expressed, they receive the graces of it. The faithful should also be assured that, in their desire for the Anointing of the sick and confession, if they cannot reasonably receive them in the ordinary manner, God knows their desire and will surely supply the graces they seek. God knows our hearts and will grant the graces we seek even if the usual ways he has set forth are not possible. May God's people be at peace in this time of pandemic knowing that their priests continue to offer the Mass on their behalf and that, through their desires, they are united to the Lord who seeks to bless them. -Msgr. Charles Pope

Resources from the Archdiocese of Washington

- The Archdiocesan website has a page with informational resources on coronavirus: <https://adw.org/coronavirus/>.
- At the pastor's discretion, churches may remain open for personal prayer. Please follow all protocols recommended by health professionals about maintaining safe interpersonal distance.
- The Archdiocesan website has resources on how to receive spiritual communion: <https://adw.org/coronavirus-dispensation-and-prayers/>.
- Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass. You can find the readings at uscbb.org and a Sunday Gospel reflection on our YouTube channel.
- The Archdiocesan website has audio and written Stations of the Cross: <https://adw.org/coronavirus-dispensation-and-prayers/>.
- Our archdiocesan Sunday TV Mass is available online: <https://adw.org/parishes-masses/sunday-tv-mass/>.
- Here is a prayer by Pope Francis to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic: <https://adw.org/text-of-popes-prayer-to-mary-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>.
- Pastoral care to the sick will continue incorporating protocols recommended by health professionals.

-Rev. Daniel Carson