



Pastor:	Father Khanh Nguyen
Pastor's Email:	FrNguyen@stmatthewseattle.org
Pastoral Asst. for Admin.	Linda Haptonstall: paa@stmatthewseattle.org
Administrative Assistant:	Susan Canney: parishoffice@stmatthewseattle.org
Parish Bookkeeper:	Susan Rivera: bookkeeper@stmatthewseattle.org
Maintenance/Facilities:	Jon Rowley: jrowley@stmatthewseattle.org
PA for Music and Liturgy:	Kelli Hart: khart@stmatthewseattle.org
PA for Youth Ministry:	Anna Budinick: youthministry@stmatthewseattle.org
School Principal:	Julie Prepotente: jprepotente@stmattschool.org
School Secretary:	Sandi Walls: swalls@stmattschool.org
Parish Office Hours:	8:30am to 12:30pm
Communion Calls:	Please call Parish Office
Catholic Cemetery:	Holyrood: 206-363-8404

A PARISH OF MANY CULTURES BUT ONE FAITH

We believe in Jesus Christ and welcome all who seek God's grace. Our compassionate community embraces many cultures. Through prayer, liturgy, our ministries and service to others, we cultivate a lifelong journey of faith.

ST. MATTHEW PARISH

1240 NE 127th St.
Seattle, WA 98125

**Weekend Masses: 4pm Seniors & 5:30pm Saturday
8am & 10am Sunday
(10am Mass is also live streamed)**

Website: stmatthewseattle.org Phone: 206-363-6767 E-mail: parishoffice@stmatthewseattle.org

Weekday Masses: 8:45 am - Mon., Wed., Thurs., Friday & Sat.
Confession: By appointment only - contact Fr Khanh Nguyen 206 363-6767 X 206
Infant Baptism: Contact Parish Office
Marriage: Contact Parish Office

ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL

Phone: 206-362-2785

<http://www.stmattschool.org>

1st Sunday
OF LENT

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God. - Mk 1:14

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

February 21, 2021

PASTORS CORNER



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In today's Gospel, we read of Jesus spending 40 days in the wilderness, just prior to his public ministry. The desert, then, becomes a symbol of encounter between human weakness and strength from God; it is the locus of determining Jesus' divine vocation to proclaim the reign of God against the powers of "Satan," represented by those who oppose its coming to completion.

The desert was also the birthplace of Israel as the people of the covenant. The Hebrew people, who escaped from slavery in Egypt, passed through the test in the desert for 40 years, and arrived as one nation into the Promised Land under one God. And in the course of Israel's history, when the people became unfaithful and forgetful of their covenant, the prophets would call Israel to recall their desert wandering to discover their identity. Likewise, in the desert, the great prophets like Elijah and John the Baptist replenished their faith and reawakened the people to the worship of the one true God.

Indeed, Lent is the time for the desert experience to rediscover who we are before God, and a time to say "Yes" to God and "no" to Satan as Jesus did. The period of 40 days in the duration of Lent in some way represents the cleaning of our lives the way the world was cleaned of its sinfulness in the time of Noah. Noah's ark was built to save those who take refuge in it. With his preaching, Jesus encourages the people to build their lives and realign their good conscience with him against the wiles of the evil one. By aligning with Jesus, we put to death anything of the "flesh" in order to rise with him in the "realm of the spirit." Jesus is the new Noah who rebuilds the ark, the Church, which will carry the new people of God to salvation. In Jesus, we find the pledge of God that the "waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings" (Gn 9:15). Jesus will be the "bow in the clouds" that will recall the everlasting covenant between God and all living beings (Gn 9:12-15). In Jesus and with the Spirit of God, the waters of baptism will renew the face of the earth.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Saint Matthew, pray for us.

Your Servant in Christ,

Fr Khanh D. Nguyen
Pastor

News, notes & Prayers

Prayers for;

- ◆ Healing and comfort, especially Pamela and Bill Hunter, Josie Agustin, Sister Kate, Jean Hughes, and for all suffering any illness or disease.
- ◆ Those who have died.
- ◆ All celebrating a birthday or anniversary.
- ◆ Mass Intention for Fr. Walter Mortec & Glen Harper on their Death/Anniversary's.

FREE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SEMINAR: A great idea for couples to do together during Lent—from your home, at your pace. MarriageInChrist.com is an easy to use online program with video presentations, a downloadable workbook, discussion starters etc. It is simple, practical and fun! Just 5 sessions. Free for couples who register by March 31 (\$40 value). Help make your marriages stronger and happier in just five weeks. Think of the difference that will make for the world as you allow Christ to be the center of your married life!



ST. MATTHEW CRAB FEAST FUND-RAISER: This year, due to COVID-19, the annual Crab Feast Dinner to benefit St. Matthew Parish will not happen. **This is one of the largest fundraising events to support the parish and all its endeavors. It is also one of the largest events we show community**

and fellowship. While we will miss sharing all that crab with you, we ask that you continue to show your support of St. Matthew Parish by making a donation in place of buying a ticket. Please make checks out to St. Matthew, with Crab Feast in the memo line, and put in the collections basket at mass or drop off at the parish office.

FOR NOW, PLEASE: be sure to register on-line for Mass, and only sign up for one Mass each weekend. We are and have been at 25% capacity since we reopened for Mass.

We need to keep up the good work wearing masks, and using proper safe distancing, for Mass under Phase 2. We want to ensure we can continue to accommodate all our parishioners who wish to attend. Please call the parish office if you have any questions.

*God grant me the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can,
and wisdom to know the difference.*

(Continued on page 3)

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE:

February 21, 2021 1st Sunday of Lent



St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. He called us into being, nurtures us in being, and sustains us in being. Without the Loving Divine Presence, all life would cease. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. In short, we will see our myopic short sightedness and figure out how we can better share the Divine Fire within with others. Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the "quality" of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God's unconditional love.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things and systems matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of "life in the good old days." Lent isn't about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It's about becoming something new. It's about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. The secret to Gospel living is not found in accumulating anything for ourselves, even merit points for heaven. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does.

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St. Matthew School News

Julie Prepotente, Principal,
206-362-2785, ext. 102,
jprepotente@stmattschool.org

Sandi Walls, Administrative Assistant,
206 362-2785, ext.101,swalls@stmattschool.org
Stacy Pretti, Admissions, 206-362-2785, ext.103,
spretti@stmattschool.org



Excellence – Diversity – Community”

Visit the School website for updates and information
<http://www.stmattschool.org>

STUDENTS ARE BACK IN CLASS!

We are very happy to have students in all grades from pre-kindergarten to grade 8 back to school our classrooms full time! We are so thankful for our creative, patient and tech-savvy teachers for supporting our students during remote learning and now with in-person classes and remote learning at the same time. We are now enrolling for fall and have limited spots for pre-k, kindergarten and some other grades. Email spretti@stmattschool.org for information or to schedule a tour.

GIFT CARDS from SCRIP: Remember when you used to buy Fred Meyer Cards to use for your shopping AND support St. Matthew School? Guess what, you still can! Contact Mike Kabalin at scrip@stmattschool.org or text your order to 206-992-



February 7, 2021 Sunday Mass Giving

	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
Basket	\$ 14,204*	\$ 8,675	\$ 5,529
On line	\$ 3,568	\$ 2,913	\$ 655
Total	\$ 14,772	\$ 11,588	\$ 6,184
YTD	\$ 310,386	\$ 337,523	\$(27,137)

* The increase is due to the receipt of an annual donation from a generous parishioner.

(Fiscal year 2021 from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021)

