



*strengthening our faith*

*by rebuilding our heritage*

April 2025

My dear parishioners,

Lent is passing quickly; Holy Week is just a week away. We mark so many dramatic events at this time: Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem; his poignant last meal with his friends; his trial and brutal execution. But the darkness of Good Friday leads inexorably to the glorious "Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!" of Easter Sunday. It is our annual pilgrimage into both the darkness of human existence and the life-giving light of the Resurrection.



### *An Easter People*

Valerie Schultz has this to say about Easter:

*While Easter lasts one day in the secular world, we know that it is our mission to live as an Easter people. We know what it is to forgive and to be forgiven. Easter people know and are grateful for God's gifts of grace and salvation. We know that God is always close by with outstretched hands, to pick us up, dust us off, and give us another chance to do God's will. . .*

*Let us keep in mind that the glory of Easter's dawn leads us ever closer to the gifts of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit brings us hope and strength. In return, we are called to accept the responsibility we have to each other—to speak in a language that others understand, to listen with the heart, and to minister with kindness and joy.*

*The powerful wind and the holy breath of the first Pentecost filled the Apostles with faith and fortitude (Acts 2:1-4). The Holy Spirit breathes upon us in the same way all these centuries later, encouraging us to step out of safety and to go among the nations to build God's kingdom here and now. We may be led to places we never imagined ourselves going.*

*When we are mindful of God's presence, we will find that life is full of sacred surprises.*

—Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter Week, by Valerie Schultz, Liguori Press.

My prayer for you this Easter is that the light of the Resurrection will fill you once again and remain with you throughout the year. May the Risen Lord grant peace to our world.

### *Holy Week at the Cathedral*

As always, the Cathedral will mark Holy Week with many special liturgies and musical events, described in the Lenten brochure sent to you last month and in the attached Holy Week schedule.

Several priests will hear Confessions in the Cathedral from 11am to Noon on Wednesday of Holy Week, **April 16** through Holy Saturday, **April 19**. On Tuesday, **April 15**, Fr. Sagastume will preside and preach at our Lenten Communal Penance Service at 12:10pm. Many priests from around the Archdiocese of Washington will hear Confessions in multiple languages, including Spanish, Italian, German and American Sign. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconcile with the Lord and his Church in time for Easter.

See the enclosed schedule of Holy Week and Easter liturgies (and Penn Parking Garage hours)— Monday’s Chrism Mass with the priests of the Archdiocese, Tuesday’s Communal Penance Service, Tenebrae on Wednesday, Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, “Seven Last Words” and Liturgies of the Lord’s Passion (English and Spanish) on Good Friday, the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, and the great celebration of The Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday!

Of course, I hope many of you will be able to attend the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, **April 19**, a bilingual Mass (in English and Spanish) with **Cardinal McElroy** presiding. It is the greatest feast of the Church’s liturgical year, the great night on which we will welcome 26 new brothers and sisters into the Catholic community—**9 will be baptized, confirmed and celebrate their First Eucharist; 14 baptized will make their Profession of Faith, be confirmed and celebrate full communion with us; and 3 baptized Catholics will complete their Sacraments of Initiation.** Note that the Easter Vigil will begin at 8pm.



I look forward to seeing you as often as you can make the time to come.

### *Special Easter Offering and Easter Flowers*



Special Easter Offering envelopes and Easter Flowers envelopes are in the pews. You may mail your offering to the rectory, drop it in the offertory basket, or give via FaithDirect ([membership.faithdirect.net/enroll/DC284](http://membership.faithdirect.net/enroll/DC284)). You also may donate via PayPal with debit and credit card options. Just scan the QR code at left or visit [stmatthewscathedral.org/support](http://stmatthewscathedral.org/support). **We really need a healthy Easter collection to meet our budget.** Our Christmas collection was **down** so we are looking for the Easter collection to exceed the budgeted amount. **PLEASE help us out.**

You may be surprised to learn that only 1/3 of registered households contribute more than a penny for the entire year. If **each** household would give something to this Easter collection, we would meet our budget. There are many reasons for not giving. I understand that, but we want to continue to provide strong music and faith formation programs, to serve the least of our brothers and sisters, and to maintain this beautiful Cathedral. I will sincerely appreciate your Easter gift. You will be remembered at our Easter season Masses. Thank you so much. Muchas gracias.

Finally, Happy Easter! May this season bring you much joy, love and peace. This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson  
Rector