My dear Fellow Disciples:

Our mission statement, at the top of each bulletin, states that we are dedicated to beautiful worship. That beauty touches the hearts of many people. A visiting Superior General of an order of Sisters, recently said that the 11 AM Mass she attended here was “the most beautiful parish Mass I’ve ever attended”. People, from all over the country and the world, regularly leave our Masses complimenting us on our Liturgy.

A large part of the beauty of our worship is our Music Ministry. Neil Weston, Grace Srinivasan and the choir members put immense effort into their music. They have trained for years to provide music that lifts the heart.

So, I ask you to continue to support our Music Ministry, with the monthly Music Ministry envelope and by becoming a Friend of the Music Ministry. Our Pastoral Council thought that we should thank you for your generous support. Listed below are our thank you to you, a small token of the Lord’s thank you for being so faithful in his praise!

St. Stephen Martyr
Friends of Our Music Ministry
Thank You Premiums
2020-2021

Psalms 47:7 Sing praise to God, sing praise.
God is king over all the earth, sing hymns of praise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORTER</th>
<th>$100</th>
<th>Inclusion in one program as a Friend, or as a Concert Donor ($250) in one of the upcoming programs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DONOR</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>Inclusion as a Donor in each Concert Program and a Complimentary copy of a Parish Christmas CD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPONSOR</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Invitation for two to a Champagne and Dessert Reception in the Rectory, Wednesday May 27th at 6:30pm. Inclusion as a Supporter in each Concert Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATRON</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>All of the above, plus a Greek Isles Buffet in the Rectory featuring Chateau Hors d’oeuvre; Feta Salad, Marinade of Lamb, Monsignor’s Mediterranean Barley, vegetable mélange, Monsignor homemade Baklava. Accompanying wines and cordials. Wednesday June 24th at 6:30pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEADERSHIP CIRCLE</td>
<td>$5,000 and above</td>
<td>All of the above, plus membership in the Honorary Board of Directors, acknowledged in all programs.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 27
St. Angela Merici, Virgin & Religious Founder
6:30am  + Victorie Gris-Zinsou Fr. Sirianni
11:30am Confession
12:10pm Christie L. Maximo Msgr. Dudziak

Tuesday, January 28
St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church
11:30am Confession
12:10pm + Angela Geddes Fr. Sirianni
5:30pm + Maria Mahazza Msgr. Dudziak

Wednesday, January 29
6:30am Special Intention Fr. Sirianni
11:30am Confession
12:10pm + Sanares Brothers & Sisters Msgr. Dudziak

Thursday, January 30
11:30am Confession
12:10pm + Msgr. Kenneth Roeltgen Fr. Sirianni
5:30pm + Rosemary Camaron Fr. Kemp

Friday, January 31
St. John Bosco, Priest
6:30am Msgr. Dudziak
11:30am Confession
12:10pm + Gorgonia Sanares Fr. Sirianni

Saturday, February 1
12:10pm Msgr. Dudziak
4:30pm Confession
Vigil Mass for the Presentation of the Lord
5:30pm + Therese & Germain Chaperon Fr. Sirianni

Sunday, February 2
The Presentation of the Lord
9:00am Pro Populo Msgr. Dudziak
11:00am + St. Stephen Martyr Bequest Benefactors Fr. Sirianni
12:30pm Fr. Sirianni
5:30pm Fr. Choi

Monday, February 3
St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
6:30am + Msgr. Kenneth Roeltgen Fr. Sirianni
11:30am Confession
12:10pm Betty Davis Fr. Reilly

Tuesday, February 4
11:30am Confession
12:10pm Alexander Davis Fr. Reilly
5:30pm Fr. Kemp

Wednesday, February 5
St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
6:30am Fr. Sirianni
11:30am Confession
12:10pm Chelcy Davis Fr. Sirianni

Thursday, February 6
St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs
11:30am Confession Fr. Reilly
12:10pm + Angela Geddes Fr. Kemp
5:30pm Fr. Reilly

Friday, February 7
6:30am Msgr. Dudziak
11:30am Confession
12:10pm Fr. Sirianni

Saturday, February 8
St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
12:10pm Sally Masaganda Fr. Sirianni
4:30pm Confession
Vigil Mass for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:30pm + Deceased Members of the O’Connell Family Msgr. Dudziak

Sunday, February 9
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00am Pro Populo Fr. Sirianni
11:00am + Angela Geddes Msgr. Dudziak
12:30pm Jazziah Cole Fr. Sirianni
5:30pm Fr. Choi

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday: 9:30am-5:30pm

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil 5:30pm
Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 12:30pm & 5:30pm
Mon/Wed/Thursday 6:30am & 12:10pm
Tuesday/Thursday 12:10pm & 5:30pm
Saturday 12:10pm

CONFESSION
Monday-Friday 11:30am–12:00pm
Saturday 4:30pm–5:15pm

CLERGY
msgrpaul@gmail.com
Rev. Klaus J. Sirianni Parochial Vicar & GW Hospital Chaplain
Deacon John Liu: Permanent Deacon, Stephen Ministry Coordinator,
Nursing Home & GW Hospital Chaplain

STAFF
Jocelyn Funes Office Manager & Event Manager
David Brake Accountant
Raphael Kadio Facilities & Maintenance
Neil Weston Director of Music

Cantor Grace Srinivasan

EL SHADDAI CHARISMATIC GROUP
Castor Gonzalez: 301-448-9747.................Coordinator
Jun Panlaqui.........................................Asst. Coordinator
Cely Almendras......................................Secretary
Rosie Plata............................................Treasurer

SANT’EGIDIO An International Lay Association of the faithful meets regularly at St. Stephen and welcomes all.
www.santegidiousa.org/communities/washington-dc

GW CATHOLICS—240-544-7585
Rev. Martino Choi, Chaplain chaplain@gwcatholic.com
Ms. Julie Gilano, Campus Minister: julie@gwcatholic.com

Prayer with Sant’Egidio - Every Tuesday at 6:30 pm
El Shaddai Prayer Meeting - Every Sunday
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm.
Parish Prayer Group Mondays 3-4pm (GALLERY)

Visit the Crystal Room at Foggy Bottom
Available for Rent rentals@crystalroomdc.com
**NOTICE**

The Office for Family Life is hosting a Men’s Retreat. Join men from around the Archdiocese of Washington for a weekend retreat directed by Fr. Dave Wells and Msgr. Robert Panke. Are you living the graces of a fully sacramental life? Does it mean to live out our baptism, to live a Eucharistic life and to access the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our daily lives and relationships? This retreat will help you to reflect on the importance of our sacraments and to reconnect with the most important relationship in your life - your relationship with Christ. The retreat will be held at Priestfield Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV. To register go to the following link: [https://2020adwmensretreat.eventbrite.com](https://2020adwmensretreat.eventbrite.com) or for more information call the Office for Family Life at 301-853-4499.

**GIFTS OF APPRECIATED STOCK.**

Those of us who would like to make a special contribution to the Parish, which has experienced many serious expenses this past year, may wish to consider the tax advantages of donating appreciated stock. Those over 70 1/2 who receive retirement income from IRA’s may wish to consider “Qualified Charitable Distributions” rather than writing personal checks. This can allow taxpayers to subtract donations from their taxable income and still take the standard deduction. Please be certain to consult your tax advisor.

Those wishing to consider donations in these manners are Invited to contact our broker (stephen.brady@wellsfargoadvisors.com) or call his secretary Frankie Porter at 202-861-4421. Thank you for considering these options.
The Importance of Community
Readings: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

Today we celebrate Jesus’ presentation at the temple. This event is recorded only in the Gospel of Luke and is rooted in the Jewish practices of purification of a mother after childbirth and the offering of the firstborn son. While the event centers on Mary, Joseph and Jesus, two community members support the Holy Family during this celebration.

The tradition described in Luke has its roots in Leviticus 12, which prescribes rules of purification and presentation. In ancient Judaism, after childbirth women were required to be purified before interacting with people and sacred objects. Giving birth to Jesus made Mary ceremonially unclean for 40 days (Lk 12:2-4). For the first seven days, she would avoid contact with people. For an additional 33 days, she would avoid contact with holy objects and the sanctuary. Though this may sound peculiar, it is important to remember that although childbirth was considered a divine blessing, purity regulations like these developed out of concerns and taboos regarding bodily fluids and their relation to religious activities.

At the end of the purification period, Mary and Joseph offered a sacrifice of two pigeons, which was expected from people who could not afford to offer a sheep (Lv 12:8). The parents also present Jesus at the temple, as was customary for all firstborn male children (Ex 13:2). The first and second readings complement this event, as Malachi prophecies about a messenger of the covenant at the temple, and the Letter to the Hebrews recognizes Jesus’ participation in Jewish rituals.

When Mary and Joseph present Jesus, they encounter two prophetic figures, Simeon and Anna, both of whom recognize the significance of Jesus. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Simeon had received a divine message that he would see the Messiah before his death. Recognizing the Messiah, Simeon takes Jesus into his arms and affirms that he can die having seen the Christ. Simeon asserts that Jesus is “a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for your people Israel” (Lk 2:32). Jesus is the Messiah for both Gentiles and Jews. Mary and Joseph are surprised that this relative stranger recognizes who Jesus is. Simeon blesses the parents and offers a message specifically to Mary that despite his importance, Jesus would be rejected by many.

We also hear about a woman prophet, Anna. Anna’s piety is highlighted, as she regularly worships, prays and fasts at the temple. Although there is no quoted speech from Anna, we are told that at the presentation she offers praise and thanksgiving to God and speaks about Jesus to all who were looking for redemption (Lk 2:38).

Although the Holy Family is central to this feast of the Presentation, Simeon and Anna play vital roles. Simeon publicly confirms Jesus’ identity and future ministry; and Anna shares Jesus with the world, proclaiming him to the Gentiles and Jews mentioned in Simeon’s prophecy. These community members affirm the significance of Jesus to the world.

There was also a prophetess, Anna.... She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child. (Lk 2:36, 38)

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE
How can I be a prophet in today’s society?
Do I recognize God in my life?
Do I invite people to praise and worship God?

Jaime L. Waters teaches Scripture at DePaul University in Chicago. She is an associate professor of Catholic studies.