

**A.M.D.G.**  
**Livestreamed Mass**  
**Sacred Heart Chapel**  
**May 14, 2020**  
**Father Hermes**

Today is the feast of Saint Matthias, the apostle chosen to replace Judas. So the one who betrayed Jesus, who sold him out to the chief priests and the elders for thirty pieces of silver, is replaced by a quiet but faithful disciple, who is now, we are told, “enrolled with the eleven apostles.” The quiet hiddenness of St. Matthias is indicated by the fact that, apart from his election, we know little else about him. We do know the one thing that indicates his fidelity – he was among those disciples present from the beginning, from the Lord’s baptism by John the Baptist up to the Ascension. In the background, but present. Relatively hidden, but faithful. A quiet witness of the truth of the Gospel and the Lord’s Resurrection.

Today was also the day scheduled for our final Mass as a school community, traditionally the first Mass without the presence of the graduating seniors. In recent years, this has also been our RCIA Mass, when those students seeking to become Catholic are welcomed into the Church and receive the sacraments of initiation. This year, we have been blessed by the Lord with seven students preparing either for Baptism or, for those already baptized, reception into full communion with the Church. The seven students are:

Seniors, Bennett Lee and Sam Lennon

Juniors, Dylan Callaghan and Rory Ramirez

Sophomores, Lawson McLeod and Caleb Williams,  
and Freshman, Gavin Yates Young.

These seven Jesuit students began their preparation in January, and during the quarantine have continued their weekly meetings via Zoom.

While we're not able to administer these sacraments of faith and life to them today, we do have approval from Bishop Parkes to celebrate that Mass and bring them into the Church in June. For obvious reasons that Mass will not be attended by the whole student body, but we plan to livestream it so that many who won't be there in person can participate.

I think there's a kinship between the quiet fidelity of St. Matthias and our seven RCIA candidates, especially this year. Out of the limelight, in steady fidelity, these seven student have been preparing for the moment when the Lord empowers them to be firm and steady witnesses of the truth of the Gospel.

And I suggest that there is a powerful lesson for all of us in this dynamic, especially while living in the relative isolation of quarantine. It's this: Great things do not result from activity without rest or from constant interaction with others. Great things, especially things of the spirit, require quiet, peace, and solitude. But of all, in the things of the spirit, greatness and even growth, require steady fidelity. Taking each day and each moment as it comes, and asking the Lord for the grace to be faithful today, now, at this moment.

In our fidelity, out of the spotlight, when nobody is looking, we become the Lord's trusted disciples, those He can count on at the crucial moment. In our daily fidelity we become his witnesses to the world. Through the powerful intercession of the apostle, St. Matthias, may our

candidates for baptism and reception into the Church soon become his witnesses to the fullness of faith. The world we live in has a hunger and desire for faithful Christians. I know that seems paradoxical, since so much of society seems cut loose from faith and Christianity. But the world and the society we live in needs hope.

So may all of us grow in faithful discipleship; may we all become stronger witnesses of the Lord Jesus in the midst of a world and a society that needs the hope that alone the Risen Christ brings. St. Matthias. Pray for us.