

# The Community of St. Matthew

## JOIN US FOR ST. MATTHEW'S TROOP 107 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

We're having breakfast with Santa  
On Sunday, December 14, 2008  
8:30 AM until 12:00 PM  
Breakfast includes: sausage, eggs,  
beverages,  
and all-you-can eat pancakes!



\$6.50 for ages 12 and up  
\$3.50 for ages 11 and under

Have your picture taken with Santa for only \$3.00



### Rosary Society Bake Sale In the Social Hall

Saturday, December 13, 2008  
Selling from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
Sunday, December 14, 2008  
Selling during the Santa Breakfast

Christmas cookies, fruitcake, breads,  
Caramels and other holiday treats!

*... exists  
in the world  
as a visible  
expression of  
God's love.*

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Friends:

I wrote this letter at the end of November and I make it available again because it signals a profound change in the manner in which we have prepared for the feast of Christmas and the Feast of Easter over more than 30 years.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian  
Pastor

In the Roman Ritual for the Sacrament of Penance revised by decree of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council and published by the authority of Pope Paul VI it states:

“It is for the diocesan bishop to determine when general absolution may be permitted....”

Archbishop Nienstedt wrote in the Catholic Spirit of November 6<sup>th</sup>: “...the use of general absolution is simply not allowed. General Absolution is not, under any ordinary circumstances, permitted in this Archdiocese.”

He asked complete adherence to this decision; thus the third form of the Sacrament of Penance – the reconciliation of several penitents with general confession and general absolution – will not be celebrated at the Church of Saint Matthew.

Individual sacramental confession is available twice weekly at Saint Matthew’s and at other times upon individual request. Individual sacramental confession will be available daily during the week before the feast of Christmas.

In addition to the three forms of the Sacrament of Penance

authorized by decree of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council and the authority of Pope Paul VI there is the practice of Penitential Celebrations.

“Penitential Celebrations are gatherings of the People of God to hear the proclamation of God’s Word. This invites them to conversion and renewal of life and announces our freedom from sin through the Death and Resurrection of Christ. The structure of these services is the same as that usually followed in celebration of the word of God and given in the Rite of the Reconciliation of Several Penitents (Introduction to the Rite of Penance).”

Over the years we have gathered before Christmas and Easter to stand before God acknowledging our sinfulness and God’s abundant and gracious forgiveness. We shall continue to do that in our Penitential Celebrations. These celebrations are not one of the forms of the sacrament; yet they are gatherings of the church in which is proclaimed the forgiving and saving mercy of God and the sure confidence that God forgives those who seek divine mercy with a sincere and honest heart.

**Our Advent/Christmas Reconciliation  
Celebration will take place on  
Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.**

## PARISH EVENTS

### COFFEE FOR A CAUSE

There’s no Coffee Hour after Sunday masses as Breakfast with Santa is going on in the Social Hall and all are invited. Thanks to all who supported Coffee for a Cause last Saturday and Sunday and raised \$108.00 in the name of Fr. Adrian as part of the events marking his 40th anniversary of ordination. This money is being donated to the St. Matthew School Alums and Friends Tuition Assistance Fund.

### PASTORAL CARE NEEDS

As Christmas nears, are there sick or lonely parishioners who would like a visit and/or Communion from a parish visitor? If you know of anyone; friends, family, a fellow parishioner who used to sit next to you but can’t get to church anymore, please call the parish office, 651-224-9793.

### ORDER HOLIDAY FRUIT BASKETS

Orders are being taken for holiday fruit baskets which will be ready for pickup or delivery on December 14. Stop by the Scrip table to see a sample basket or to place an order. Local delivery is available for a nominal fee. Questions, call Tim 612-269-9471.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST. MATTHEW’S

Friday evening, December 19th, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. A “free will concert” will be given by Nicholas Carter, a harpist, who along with the Nube ensemble will perform Christmas music with a Latin beat. Bring the children and enjoy the music of the season.

EDUCATION AND  
FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Advent and Christmas  
Church of Saint Matthew  
510 Hall Avenue  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55107  
651-224-9793

Advent Penitential Celebration  
Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm  
A non-sacramental Penitential Celebration

Individual Reconciliation  
In the Chapel  
Wednesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 4 pm  
Thursday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm  
Friday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm  
Saturday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm  
Monday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7 pm  
Tuesday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:15 am & 4 pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Saturday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 5 pm  
Sunday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 8 and 10:30 am

Feast of Christmas  
Vigil Mass, Wednesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm  
11:30 pm Carols & Mass at Midnight  
Mass at Dawn, Thursday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, 8 am  
Mass of Christmas Day, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am

Feast of the Holy Family  
Saturday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm  
Sunday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, 8 and 10:30 am

New Year  
Thursday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 am

Feast of the Epiphany  
Saturday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> 5 pm  
Sunday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, 8 and 10:30 am

SUNDAY MISSALS

The St. Joseph's Sunday Missals are available at the back of church; the suggested donation is \$5.00. These are printed in Canada and have the same translation of the readings we use at weekend liturgy. [There are some small differences in the translation that encourage better proclamation and better listening and hearing.] Another great use for these missals is the ability to prepare the readings during the week at home. In that way, they will be more familiar when they are heard on Sunday.

*John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." - Jn 1:26-27*

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

THIS WEEK AT  
SAINT MATTHEW

**Sunday**                      **December 14**  
8:30 AM-12:00 PM      Breakfast with  
Santa/Rosary  
Society Bake Sale

**Monday**                      **December 15**  
3:00 PM, SH              Loaves and Fishes

**Tuesday**                      **December 16**  
3:00 PM, SH              Loaves and Fishes  
6:30 PM, MC              Communal Penance  
Service  
[Non-Sacramental]

**Wednesday**                      **December 17**  
9:00 AM, MC              School Mass  
12:00-7:00 PM, PC      St. Mary's Clinic  
2:45 PM, MC              Children's Choir  
3:00 PM, SH              Loaves and Fishes  
5:00 PM, MC              HummDingers  
6:30 PM, SC              Religious Education,  
Grades 1-10  
7:00 PM, MC              Adult Choir

**Thursday**                      **December 18**  
3:00 PM, SH              Loaves and Fishes  
6:30 PM, SC              Girl Scout Troop  
50163 mtg.

**Friday**                      **December 19**

**Saturday**                      **December 20**  
9:00 AM, MC              Advent Morning  
Prayer

**Sunday**                      **December 21**  
9:00 AM, PC              Finance Committee  
mtg.

**Abbreviations:**

MC – Main Church  
CH – Chapel  
PC – Parish Center  
SH – Social Hall  
SC – School  
CC – Child Care  
XC – Extended Day

## STEWARDSHIP

All of the people in today's readings—the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, and St. John the Baptist—seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. What's my reaction to what I am called to be and to do?

Sharing Thanks to so many faithful stewards: \$12,342 was given last weekend [by mail, electronically, in envelopes and in the plate. Continuing to compare: we improved versus budget, but are still \$4686 behind for this year; however, the total amount is \$8056 greater than last year. Again: thanks.

Also: \$1,008 was given in school envelopes; \$321 in holyday envelopes [both Immaculate Conception and Christmas]; \$105 was given to the food shelf. Thanks for all these gifts.

Service Thanks to dozens of volunteers who played important parts in celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Father Steve's Ordination:

After Mass coffee and Jerabek's goodies: John DelVecchio, Doris Bisciglia, Diane Kammerer, Carol Gilberg, Carol Murphy, Jeanne Snaza Maanum, Juliana Maanum, and Esther Snaza.

Hall Preparations: Kathy, Scott, Rebecca, Daniel, and Bridget Goldenstein, Larry and Shirley Smith; Kathy Shepard, David Rosas, Brian Osborne, Lynn Volkenant, Jason, Jennifer and Hannah Delmont. Centerpieces: Jan Casillas; napkin rings: Samantha Casillas,

Kitchen for the dinner; parishioner chefs Stephen Mike [Wabasha Deli] and John Plante; Josie Mike, Mary Plante, Eriks Lukins, Leah Bloch, Debbie Jackson, Alice Schletty, Sister Ann Becker, Denise Villelva, Christine Baker Johnson, Jordan Nowak, Dawn Knish.

Dining Room for the dinner: Tim, Bob and Sue Nowak, Jan, Pete, Samantha, and Holly Casillas; Pat and John Sekevitch; Debbie Jackson and JoAnn Brown, Doug and Krissy Lieser, Nicole Johnson, Maureen Gitlin, Mary Riehle, Diane Horwath. And most importantly, the young people on the wait staff: Alexis Kramer, Maddie Hesse, Nicole Brown, Aurora Riojas, Shaughn Ahern, Julian Espinosa, Crisanto Dubuc, Sami Villelva, Hannah Delmont, Ben Plante, Shelby Rosario Cierra Mendez, Ariana Mendez.

## WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 14, 2008

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28  
 Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27  
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32  
 Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17  
 Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25  
 Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25  
 Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38  
 Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/  
 Lk 1:26-38

## PARISH DIRECTORY

Saint Matthew Church Office..... 651-224-9793  
 Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM  
 Web site: st-matts.org  
 Bulletin Email: bulletin.editor@st-matts.org

## Pastoral Staff

Pastor..... *Father Stephen Adrian*  
 Deacon..... *Rev. John Murphy*  
 Parish Pastoral Administrator..... *John Riehle*  
 Dir. Education & Formation.....*Doug Lieser*  
 Dir. Music & Liturgy .....*Bonnie Faber*  
 Dir. Child Care..... *Shar Lavelle*  
 Dir. KLT Kids .....*Shar Lavelle*  
 Dir. Marketing & Development..... *Maureen Gitlin*  
 Bookkeeper ..... *Cindy Hoffman*  
 Administrative Assistant ..... *Nicole Johnson*  
 Dir. Food Service ..... *Alice Schletty*  
 Parish Engineer.....*David Rosas*

## Phone Numbers

Fax..... 651-228-9448  
 Parish School..... 651-224-6912  
 KLT Kids ..... 651-665-0786  
 Child Care Center..... 651-224-1459  
 Liturgy and Music Voicemail..... 651-310-0830  
 Prayerline ..... 651-686-5463 or 651-455-6886

## Schedule of Services

Weekend Liturgies Saturday: 5:00 PM  
 Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 AM  
 Weekday Liturgies Monday-Friday: 6:45 AM  
 1st Friday: 6:45 AM & 5:15 PM

## Reconciliation

Tuesday..... 7:15 AM  
 Saturday..... 4:00 PM

## Sacrament of Baptism

Parents who are parishioners make arrangements with the Pastor or the Deacon one month prior to baptism.

## Sacrament of Marriage

Couples make arrangements with the Pastor or the Deacon six months prior to wedding. Must be a member of the parish

## Parish Council Members

Parish Council email: *parishcouncil@st-matts.org*

Becky Montgomery	Nicole Johnson
Connie Aligada	Anthony Minus
Jason Delmont	Mark Thomford
Tony Palmer	Chris Stevens
Joyce Osborne	Stephen Adrian