

The Community of St. Matthew

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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Friends,

The following are some of the remarks of Benedict XVI through Archbishop Tomasi, the Vatican permanent observer to the United Nations Offices and Specialized Institutions in Geneva at the 48th international conference on education, organized by UNESCO.

“The goal of education for all must take into account the needs of every person and in particular the needs of the poor and most vulnerable, of people with disabilities, of rural and inner city youth, of young people and adults without any discrimination.”

“Education must remain aware that they carry out their service in co-operation with parents, who are the first educators and have the priority right and duty to educate their children.”

“The educational community is called to promote a school that is a place of integral formation through interpersonal relations based on mutual respect and acceptance. In this perspective, inclusion is not an ideology that wears down all differences and loses sight of the situation of the concrete person, of her history and experiences, and that should remain at the center of every educational program.”

"An education would be most impoverished if it were limited to providing notions and information and neglected the important question about the truth, especially that truth which can be a guide in life."

"An inclusive education embraces all children and youth in their existential context and all persons dedicated to their formation, a comprehensive process that combines transmission of knowledge and development of personality. [...] At its best, education provides everyone with the tools to contribute a creative participation in community, to reflect and give an appropriate answer to the unavoidable profound questions of meaning, to live with others, to discover one's nature and inherent dignity as spiritual creatures."

For 120 years these values have been the undergirding of the educational mission of Saint Matthew's. At Saint Matthew's we save lives and change lives; our alums are a testimony to this boast.

This work is a "deed of hope". Parents and educators never know the impact of their efforts until long after; no immediate impact is seen. Yet, we live by hope, and at this Season we remember that in the life of that small infant of Bethlehem was to be discovered the Messiah and Risen Lord.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

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, 651-224-979.

COFFEE FOR A CAUSE

Join us after both masses this Sunday. The coffee and goodies are being served by Stella Lundquist, Rosemary Sullivan, and Lu Finnegan. The proceeds from this weeks Coffee for a Cause will go to the Holy Family Adoption Agency; a no cost, licensed, Catholic adoption agency.

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.

Mary, Mother of God
Thursday, January 1
Mass at 10:00 AM

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS

VISITATION SCHOOL TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE FOR GRADES 9-12

Convent of the Visitation School, Located at 2455 Visitation Drive in Mendota Heights, will hold an *Upper School Open House on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 7:00 PM.* This informational Open House is planned for prospective families interested in grades 9-12 at Visitation. An overview of the school programs, philosophy and curriculum will be presented. Families will also have the opportunity to tour the facilities and speak with faculty, students, administrators and current parents. Financial grant and transportation information will also be available. Visitation seeks students from a variety of socioeconomic, religious and cultural backgrounds. For more information, please contact the Admissions Office at 651-683-1707 or visit our website at www.visitation.net.

SAINT BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 8th @ 7:00. Come and experience first hand all that Saint Bernard's School has to offer! For more information contact the Admissions Office at 651-489-1338, or visit our website at www.saintbernards-school.org. "Small school setting, big school experience"

MINISTRY OF THE SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

The East Side Learning Center is in need of Volunteer Tutors to provide one-on-one tutoring in reading to students in grades K-4. Tutoring takes place at three sites: John A. Johnson Elementary School, Bruce Vento Elementary School, and Trinity Catholic School. We make it easy. Volunteers receive an initial orientation and on-going training, and are provided with lesson plans and materials for each session. All you have to do is make the time to help! Tutoring occurs between 8:30-9:30 AM and 3:00-5:00 PM. For more information contact Sister Jana Roberts at 651-793-7331.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 28, 2008

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
 Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
 Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29---3:6/Jn 1:29-34
 Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	December 28
Monday	December 29
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:30 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday	December 30
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Wednesday	December 31
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
5:00 PM, MC	Vigil Mass
6:30 PM, SC	Religious Education, Grades 1-10
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
Thursday	January 1
Mary, Mother of God	
10:00 AM, MC	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:45 PM, PC	Parish Council
Friday	January 2
7:15 AM-5:15 PM	Eucharistic Adoration
5:15 PM, MC	Mass
Saturday	January 3
Sunday	January 4

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

“Whatever you do,” says St. Paul to the Colossians, “...do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through him.” And so it is that we offer our gifts in the Eucharist “through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit...” That is the definition of a thankful steward, a person fully aware of the source of every good gift, and the need to return thanks!

Weekly envelopes...please remember the invitation to use an envelope every Sunday: enclosing a contribution and/or noting how stewardship in time of prayer and sharing of talent has been practiced. Bringing an envelope is good modeling and witness; reflecting on time and talent is wonderful witness and invitation to others. Often we are tempted by the thought everything is between me and God. That isn't true for us who live in a visible, Christian Community. We need each other's witness and support. Full use of stewardship envelopes is a way....

Prayer: read the bible 5 days this week; am praying a novena in preparation for Christmas; daily spiritual reading...rosary...morning and evening prayers

Service: helped at a school celebration; provided support for some who are homebound; baked items for family and friends.

Sharing: \$7845 was contributed on a snowy and cold weekend. Thank you. Year-to-date: \$225,797—about 4% [\$9193] behind the budget. Thanks for continuing the effort of best stewardship amid most difficult economic times. Also given: \$52 in school envelopes; \$50 in fuel/utility envelopes; \$662 in holy-day envelopes—including Christmas. And \$8328 was given for the Retirement Fund for Religious [thanks Sister Stephanie for wonderful witness and invitation].

Young People's Stewardship: \$7.01 Thank you! They wrote: cleaned bookshelves, helped prepare for Christmas, helped with cousin, meal prayers

Children's envelopes: Due to some confusion with the company, envelopes for children and youth will only be available about two weeks. Please plan to take and use envelopes beginning then. Our apologies.

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
 Chris Stevens Joyce Osborne
 Stephen Adrian