

The Community of St. Matthew



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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Friends:

Today is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – the final moment of the Christmas Season. There are some cultures which carry on the Christmas Season until the Feast of the Presentation, February 2nd. The Orthodox Christians celebrate the Epiphany on January 19th this year, preceded the day before, January 18th with Camel Wrestling in Turkey.

The Christmas Season is overlaid with such cultural, ethnic and national custom that of all the feasts of the year it is the most diverse in celebration.

Not only are dates of celebration different for various cultures; but the foods associated with the feast and season are as varied as the national groups, as are the legends and stories which surround the keeping of the season.

Each grouping seeks to “own” the feast; and celebrate God’s coming among us as “one of our own”.

This rich diversity strongly teaches the central truth of the mystery of the Incarnation – God truly comes among us, as we are; and is with us as one of our own.

So when the Good News of God’s compassionate love is proclaimed it must be spoken in a way that can be understood, it must be announced in a manner which allows each individual to identify with the truth.

When the Second Vatican Council endorsed and

encouraged a vernacular liturgy and a reformation of the rituals of the sacraments to more express the unique quality of individual cultures and ethnic practice, the Council sought to give practical expression to the truth of the Incarnation.

This process is called “enculturation”.

Today there are elements within our church which would like to turn back this development and return us to a universal expression of Catholic faith which is fundamentally western, medieval and highly clerical. They would like to see a retreat from linguistic, ritual and cultural religious pluralism. They see the unity of the faith preserved through a uniformity of practice and expression.

The Council sought to achieve a unity in faith in a wide diversity of practice and expression.

Just as the mystery of the Incarnation allows each of us to “own” the mystery of God among us as “one of our own”; so this mystery is best celebrated and lived when it is rooted in the indigenous culture of a people.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

This event was started by Church youth many years ago—with the intention of re-supplying food shelves. The idea was to think “soup” on Super Bowl Sunday. All at St. Matt’s are invited to bring a can/some cans/a case of cans of soup on Jan 31 and Feb 1. How many could we collect?

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BREAKFAST

Reservations are being taken until January 13, 2009. Register online at www.spacc.org or call 651-789-3877. Make sure you register for the “West Side/West. St. Paul” location. Though the event is free, participants must make reservations. This year’s keynote speaker is General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.).

COFFEE FOR A CAUSE

Coffee For a Cause this week is being served by The Romanian Travelers (Judy and Bob DeNardo, Becky Montgomery and Dave Haley, Florida and Joe Stevens, Barb and Rick Kraft). All are welcome to stop by for a hot cup of coffee, good things to eat and conversation in the Social Hall. You can also learn about the good work for the children of Romania and the support presented there in the name of the St. Matthew’s community. Thanks to all who supported last weeks C4aC benefiting St. Matthew’s Religious Education program. \$59.00 was raised.

ROSARY SOCIETY

There is no Rosary Society meeting in January.

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CANCER HOME

This is the weekend for the annual collection for Our Lady of Good Counsel Free Cancer Home, sponsored by St. Matthew's Rosary Society/CCW. Donated items may be left in the side room at the front entrance of the church. Rosary members will be at the doors after each Mass to accept monetary donations. Checks May be made out directly to "Good Counsel Cancer Home". Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS COURT #367 MEETING NOTICE

Quarterly meeting, Monday, January 19th, 6:30 PM at St. Matthew's Parish Center. Court officers and members will discuss Matching Funds events for charitable causes and court activities for the year.

CULVER'S NIGHT!

New this year the Home & School Association has arranged "Culver's Nights". The next one is on Tuesday, January 20th from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Culver's in West St. Paul. St. Matthew's will receive 10% of ALL sales that night, drive through and dine in. Participants do not need to identify themselves as being from St. Matthew's School. It's a great way to support the school and have a nice evening out with the family. On our last "Culver's Night" in November, St. Matthew's School received \$292.45. Hope to see you there!

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2008

Tax statements are ready for pick-up or mailing. These may be helpful as tax returns are prepared. Please call or e-mail the parish office at 651-224-9793 or receptionist@st-matts.org if you would like yours. Remember that your records are more "official" than is the Church statement.

NEW YEARS RESOLUTION

How about a resolution to join the choir! We are always looking for new members to join us. We are in need of all parts, but especially sopranos. Perhaps this is your year. ...Questions? Call Bonnie at the Parish Center 651-224-9793.

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. -1 Peter 4:10

CHRISTMAS TAKE-DOWN

If you are available after the 10:30 AM Mass today (January 11) we could use your help for a "Christmas Take-Down"; putting away our manger scenes, taking down the trees, etc. If you would like some of the flowers for your home, they will be available to take after the 10:30 AM Mass.

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday 4:00 PM, MC	January 11 Confirmation Class
Monday 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, SC 6:30PM, SC	January 12 Loaves and Fishes Boy Scouts EAC meeting
Tuesday 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, SC	January 13 Loaves and Fishes Girl Scouts
Wednesday 9:15 AM, MC 2:45 PM, MC 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 5:00 PM, MC 6:30 PM, SC 7:00 PM, MC 8:00 PM, SH	January 14 School Mass Children's Choir St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes HummDingers Religious Education, Grades 1-10 Adult Choir Men's Club
Thursday 3:00 PM, SH	January 15 Loaves and Fishes
Friday	January 16
Saturday	January 17
Sunday	January 18

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. The US bishops' pastoral on stewardship reminds us that Baptism gives all of Jesus' disciples a share in His priestly work and calls them "to offer up the world and all that is in it—especially themselves—to the Lord of all."

Do I celebrate the anniversary of my baptism? [Do I know when that is?] Am I convinced that I share in the priestly work of Jesus? Do I act like that?

Sharing: Thanks to each steward for weekend contributions totaling \$10,633. That includes some "end of the year" giving as well as the new levels of giving that members named in the pledge for 2009. That amount is \$6,698 behind the budget, but it is \$2,420 ahead of last year's actual. Again: thank you.

As well, these amounts were given: \$970 in school envelopes and plate; \$953 in holyday envelopes; \$250 in Christmas envelopes; \$163 in "initial" envelopes [they help defray the cost of the envelope system]; and \$5 for the food shelf. Simply: thank you.

Prayer: The prevalent adjective in the group of stewardship statements of time has been: **daily**. That describes rosary, spiritual reading, bible reading, and morning, evening and meal prayers. Finding a usual place and a usual time are two helps in making these activities habitual.

Service: Helping those who are elderly, who are poor, and who are sick; chauffeuring to many places including church; volunteering at Neighborhood House.

Envelopes for children and youth are available at the back of church. Please sign/print—clearly—your name and phone number next to the appropriate number. We will try to print a report every three months of the amounts given in those envelopes.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of January 11, 2009
 Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11/Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11
 Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Mk 1:14-20
 Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Mk 1:21-28
 Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39
 Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Mk 1:40-45
 Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Mk 2:1-12
 Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Mk 2:13-17
 Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

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