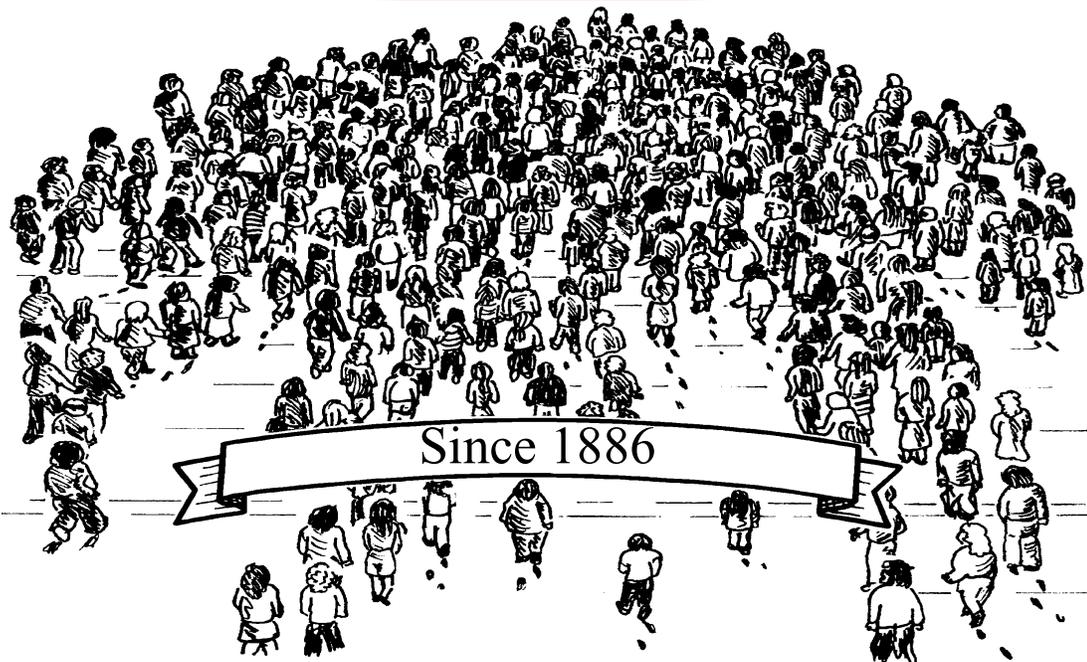
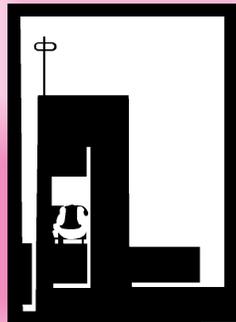


The Community of St. Matthew

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



DEAR SAINT MATTHEW COMMUNITY & VISITORS

Below is a reflection on the beginning of Advent written by Dan, a college student preparing for examinations. Thanks Dan!

Yours truly,
Stephen Adrian

Watch! Be Alert!

Already dreading the last few weeks of the semester? Looking forward to finally saying it's all done and going back to more than 4 hours of sleep a night? I know I am.

None of us need (or want) to be told just how busy a time the next few weeks will be. After the papers and the final exams that will barrage us over the next few weeks, there is still Christmas – packing up to go home, shopping for gifts, trying to see every relative. It's intense to say the least.

In light of this stressful time ahead, this Sunday's gospel – and indeed, the entire season of Advent – seems to come at a funny time. In the gospel, Jesus tells us: "Be watchful! Be alert!" We are to watch and make sure that we are not found sleeping when the master comes.

While we're unlikely to do much sleeping in the weeks to come, it hardly seems that we'll have any time to simply watch and wait. We have so many concerns coming from so many different angles that it is unlikely that we even notice whether our socks match or not. How are we supposed to find time to step back, reflect, and watch?

I can't give you much help in finding the extra time, and I don't claim to be great at time-management myself, but I can tell you that if we do step back and watch and begin to see clearly, it is worth the few extra minutes it takes. If we reflect and make ourselves alert to God's presence, we will see that God is everywhere.

As you read this, you may still be savoring leftover pumpkin pie or anticipating your fill of Thanksgiving turkey. The food is not the point. The point is that Thanksgiving should give us a start in our watching. At Thanksgiving,

we give thanks for all that God has given us, and this is often the time when we remember all those things we may otherwise take for granted: our families, the food we eat, the opportunities we've been given... there are so many things ...

These are the things we are supposed to watch for. We are supposed to watch for the gifts God gives us; watch for God's presence in our lives; watch for God trying to give us His love. We are to watch for the smiles, the extra help of friends, the really good meals and conversations. We are to find God in our world, those around us, and ourselves.

When we watch for and see these things, when we recognize God all around us begging to come into our lives, we must be open – we must let God be born into our lives. Today's first reading is about how the Israelites have strayed and shut God out of their lives, and Isaiah can only pray that God will come down and save them from their evil. He hopes that God will shake them out of their ways, show his face, and make them turn back to Him.

In our studies, in our extra-curricular activities, in our relationships, we must step out of our busyness for a moment and open ourselves to let God in.

Still think you just don't have the time? Take some advice from some friends of mine. One made a point of praying in the shower each morning, another while brushing her teeth. One writes on her mirror who and what she needs to pray for and does so while she's getting ready each day. On the way to class, look around you and see God.

It's that quick and easy!
God doesn't intend for it to be hard to find Him, and it may not take much or any time away from our school-work and other obligations. We simply have to see God in those things, awaken ourselves to where God is in our lives, and remain alert for new and ever-wonderful appearances.

PARISH EVENTS

GIFT GIVING WEEKEND

We invite you to bring in new unwrapped gifts to place under the Christmas tree in church the weekend of December 14-15. Gifts for all ages are appreciated. If you are a parish family who is in need at this time, please call Sr. Mary Colleen (224-9793) with that information.

SCOUT WREATHS AVAILABLE

The wreaths are available for pick-up THIS WEEKEND after all masses. Thank you for supporting Scouts!

CHRISTMAS BAKERY AND COOKIE SALE

The Rosary Society is having a bake sale before and after the masses on December 14th and 15th. Home-made breads, Christmas cutouts, all-butter spritz cookies, sugar cookies, fruitcakes, caramels, and candies will be available. We can reduce your Christmas stress by helping you with your holiday baking.

EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS



CONFIRMATION STUDENT REMINDER: Our next meeting is at 4:00 PM on Sunday, December 8th in the Church. Mass will follow at 5:00 PM. Please bring your bible and confirmation book.

THE NEW LITURGICAL YEAR HAS ARRIVED! Do you have your new St. Joseph Missal for Cycle B? Every year is different so even if you already have a Cycle B missal from a previous year, the readings provided in it will be slightly different from the new Cycle B. The cost is \$5.00 per book. Checks can be made out to Saint Matthew's Church. Look for the display in the back of the church.

ATTENTION LECTORS! The New Cycle B "Workbook for Lectors & Gospel Readers" is here. This is a great resource to help you with your ministry. If you have already ordered one, be sure to pick it up from the Sacristy. If you would still like to order one, please check the order list by the ministry check-in board. Supplies are limited. A donation of \$8.00 toward the cost of the book is appreciated, but not necessary.

NEW LITURGY SCHEDULES are ready for pick up in the back of church. Please save us postage by picking yours up now.

IT'S FESTIVAL CHOIR TIME! We're preparing music for the Christmas Liturgies NOW. If you would like to help with the music at either the Christmas Midnight Mass or the 10:30 AM Christmas Day Mass, leave your name and number on Dana's voice mail—651-310-0830. She'll get back to you regarding rehearsal times (typically we practice on Thursdays from 7:00—8:30 PM in the church—but this has been known to change). Hope to be hearing from you!

BAPTISMS CELEBRATED DURING OCTOBER

We welcome the following baptised: Frank Rivera-Prescott, and Franklin Pfosin.

FUNERALS CELEBRATED DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Prayers of support and condolence to the family and friends of: Brian Doud, and Mark R. Stoven.

NOVEMBER 500 CARD CLUB WINNERS

1st place 3700—Sister Joanna Illg & Ann Marthaler
2nd place 2930—Mary Price & Arlene Kempe

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who participated in the ecumenical Thanksgiving service at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church last Tuesday evening.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday

8:00 AM MC
10:30 AM MC
12:00 PM CH
Social Hall

Monday

3:00 PM SH
XC

Tuesday

3:00 PM SH

Wednesday

3:00 PM SH
7:00 PM SH
1:00 –7:00PM PC

Thursday

3:00 PM SH
6:30 PM PC

Friday

Happy St. Nicholas Day!

Saturday

Sunday

4:00 PM MC

December 1

Boy Scouts Wreathes
Boy Scout Wreathes
Baptism
Catholic Aid Society
Communion Breakfast

December 2

Loaves & Fishes
Brownie Meeting

December 3

Loaves & Fishes

December 4

Loaves & Fishes
Men's Club Brd Mtg
St. Mary's Clinic

December 5

Loaves & Fishes
Siberian Carmelite
Meeting

December 6

Happy St. Nicholas Day!

December 7

December 8

Confirmation Meeting

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

The Sunday, November 23 donations were not all counted by the time this bulletin went to print. As of October 30, we are behind \$19,484.90. Stewardship is a way of life—a graciousness by which I return to God a portion of what God has lavished on me.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 1	†Living and Deceased Members of the Rosary Society †Arthur Geis
Monday, December 2	†Robert Follmer
Tuesday, December 3	†Frank Jungbauer
Wednesday, December 4	†Raymond Mularky
Thursday, December 5	†James & Jeanette Dieter
Friday, December 6	†Bernard Ferber
Saturday, December 7	†Patricia Erickson †Joseph Karas

WEEKLY READINGS

For the Week of December 1

Sunday, December 1	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2b-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37
Monday, December 2	Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday, December 3	Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday, December 4	Is 25: 6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday, December 5	Is 26: 1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday, December 6	Is 29: 17-24; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday, December 7	Is 30: 19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 6-8
Sunday, December 8	Is 40: 1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS

This weekend there is a special collection taken up at at Masses to benefit the Retirement Fund for Religious. Approximately 40,000 men and women religious are now over the age of 70. These religious, who dedicated their lives to God and to helping others, are now in need of your help. Contributions assist communities in greatest need who count on your generosity to help them continue their various ministries while caring for their elderly and infirm members. Thank you in advance for your generous

PARISH DIRECTORY

Saint Matthew Church Office 651-224-9793

Pastoral Staff

Pastor.....	<i>Father Stephen Adrian</i>
Priest in Residence.....	<i>Father Marty Warren</i>
Deacon.....	<i>Rev. John Murphy</i>
Pastoral Administrator	
Dir. Education & Formation.....	<i>Scott Breimhorst</i>
Dir. Music & Liturgy.....	<i>Dana McCarthy</i>
Dir. Pastoral Ministry.....	<i>Sr. Mary Colleen Hau</i>
Dir. Child Care.....	<i>Sue Shandley</i>
Business Administrator.....	<i>Patty Flynn</i>
Administrative Assistant.....	<i>Nicole Johnson</i>
Dir. Food Service.....	<i>Alice Schletty</i>
Parish Engineer.....	<i>David Rosas</i>

Phone Numbers

Fax.....	651-228-9448
Parish School.....	651-224-6912
Extended Day.....	651-228-1535
Child Care Center.....	651-224-1450
Prayerline Receiver.....	651-222-3622 or 651-224-2903

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

Monday.....	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 three months prior to wedding.

Parish Council Members

Kathy Goldstein	Linda Sellars
Marty Olson	Jeff Gilberg
Paul Kempe	Suzanne Clarke
John Finnegan	Tim Jack
Doug Kennedy	Becky Montgomery
Wally Nelson	John Sekevitch

Committee Chairs

Finance	
Education Advisory.....	Michele Edwards
Liturgy	