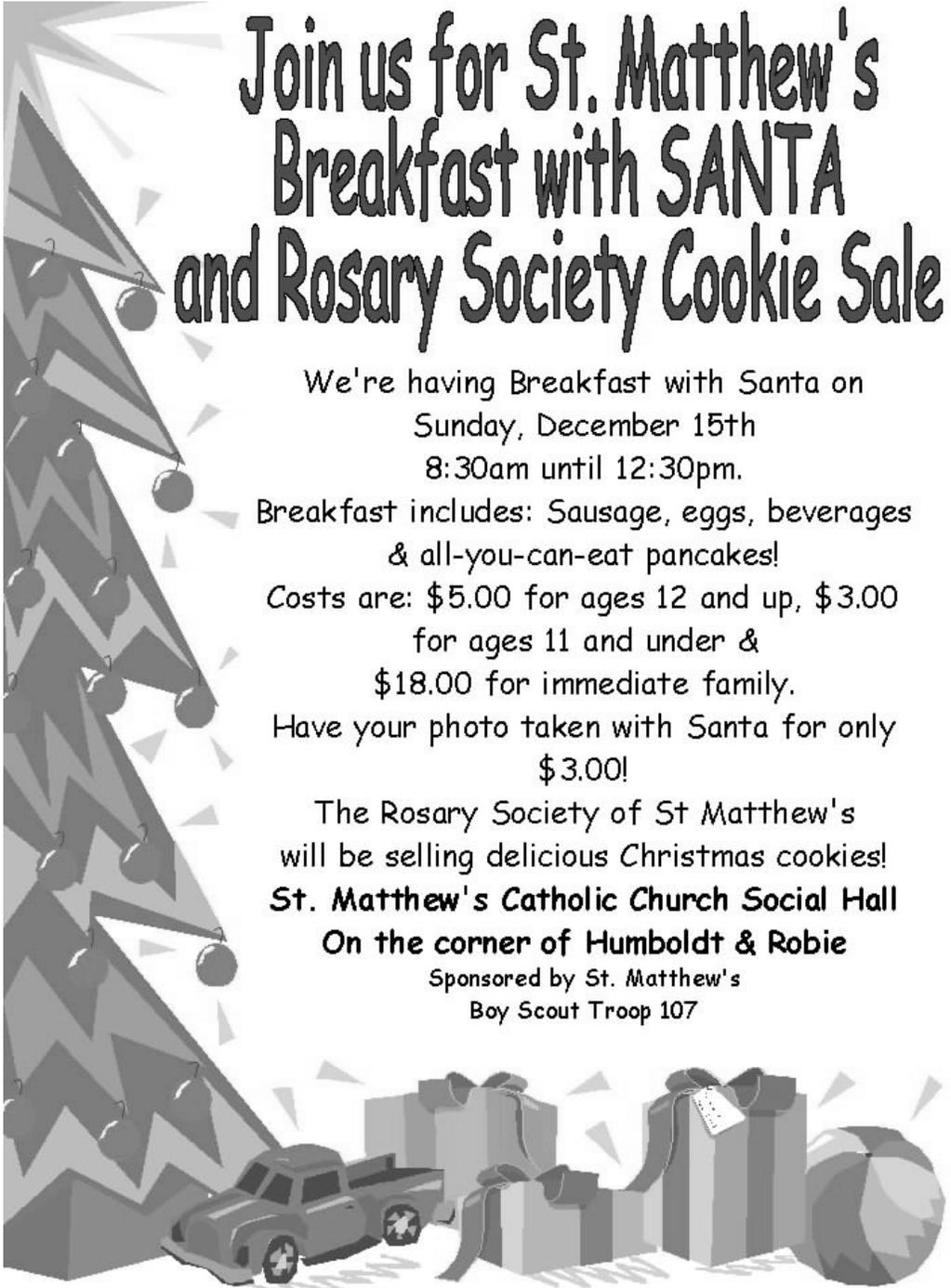


# The Community of St. Matthew

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



## Join us for St. Matthew's Breakfast with SANTA and Rosary Society Cookie Sale

We're having Breakfast with Santa on  
Sunday, December 15th  
8:30am until 12:30pm.

Breakfast includes: Sausage, eggs, beverages  
& all-you-can-eat pancakes!

Costs are: \$5.00 for ages 12 and up, \$3.00  
for ages 11 and under &  
\$18.00 for immediate family.

Have your photo taken with Santa for only  
\$3.00!

The Rosary Society of St Matthew's  
will be selling delicious Christmas cookies!  
**St. Matthew's Catholic Church Social Hall**  
**On the corner of Humboldt & Robie**

Sponsored by St. Matthew's  
Boy Scout Troop 107

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

Great stories underpin life – and the greatest of all stories is at the center of life – my life, your life, the life of the world. In Advent the Church takes us back to the beginning, the origin, the start of the story. Below is a reflection by Father John Foley, SJ.

Yours truly, Stephen Adrian, Pastor

### Once upon a time, a long, long time ago...

Creation is much older than the human race, we all know that. God began creation not because he needed it but because the Godly Being was so full, so dynamic, so brimming with being and love, that he almost was forced to let himself overflow into something newly made, something that was not him but with which he could exchange his love.

So planets and black holes and galaxy clusters came into being. And God bestowed himself upon every most microscopic atom of this exhaustive creation he had made. If you had asked the planets and asteroids, that would have been enough. To be and to be filled with God, what a privilege, what a gift. But God was not satisfied. Wonderful as the galaxies were, they could not receive God actively. They could not decide to let God in and then willingly love God in return.

So God thought up an almost miraculously intricate trail by which something called life could come about. Scientists tell us that every quite infinitesimal act of causation had to be perfectly in place at the precisely right instant in order for life to evolve. God chose for this display a diminutive blue planet circulating insignificantly around a small star in what would later (millions of years later) be called the Milky Way.

And life came to be. It made its way out of the seas onto land and into trees, skies, rocky shores. It chose the deepest oceans as its home, the highest mountains, the coldest high specks of space, the hottest flaming deserts. God loved this abundant "life" as a shepherd loves a flock. If you had asked the dinosaurs and apes and fish and birds, this would have been enough. They had come to life. And God had encircled them with love. But there was still more room to be filled. God's overflow needed to be complete, so he had to scoop out still more wide-

ness in these living creatures so that they could actively take in the kind love God was bestowing upon them.

Therefore the human race—slowly, cumbrously—came into being. Don't ask me the number of Cro-Magnon species that came to be, or how hunting turned into farming and cooking, how weaving and building and fences and fire burst onto the scene. They did. And God took time to dig out within these newly fashioned humans a spiritual hollow in which they could, in fear and distraction, actually receive God's Glory—not just passively like a rock does the sun, but actively and knowingly, welcoming unto themselves the great gratuity of God's life, love, presence. They would have declared that this was quite satisfyingly enough. They sought and found Ra, or El, or Apollo, or the Great Spirit, or Nirvana, or Allah, or Buddha, or YHWH, or hundreds of other outreaches through history.

God said, this is good. This is very good. But his abundance of love was still not stanch. Christianity tells us that God said something almost impossible. "I want to have a language that I can use to tell my very self to them. I want to give my real and eternal Word into their midst. What language shall I use?"

God used human beings as his language. When the time was right he writ large the real story of the real God, using the "human race" as his language, etching the story into that inwardness, into that image and likeness he had fashioned after himself. The story was the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Surely we must say that this, at last, is enough. In fact, much more than enough. But I am getting ahead of myself. Advent is the story of eons of God's own eternal persistent waiting, of his plan to let us search for him over and over until finally we are found by him and finally get to say to him the grandest of all words of reply in this or any other language: yes.

So John the Baptist dressed in itchy camel's hair and ate locusts and began the final eon of all eons of all creation's getting ready to receive no less than God. John snuck ahead to prepare the way for one who would baptize us with the Holy Spirit.

Listen. Listen well. That Holy Spirit is what he has been trying to tell us all along.

## PARISH EVENTS

### FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Monday, December 9, 2002

Mass times at Saint Matthew

6:45 AM

8:30 AM

5:15 PM

### RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

This weekend a special collection will be taken up at all Masses to benefit the Retirement Fund for Religious. 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.

### GIFT GIVING WEEKEND

Next weekend, December 14-15, we invite you to make Christmas a joyous occasion for needy families by bringing NEW unwrapped gifts to place under the Christmas tree in church. Gifts for all ages are appreciated, don't forget the teenagers and adults? If you are a parish family who is in need at this time, please call Sister Mary Colleen, Pastoral Minister (22409793) with that information. You will be issued a letter which you will need to pick up your gifts. All names will be kept confidential.

### ST. JOSEPH MISSAL FOR CYCLE B

This year's is significantly different from previous Cycle B's. The cost is \$5 per book. Look for the display in the back of church.

## EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS



### SCRIP CERTIFICATES AS A GIFT IDEA

You can purchase SCRIP certificates (to use the same as cash) in the back of church after each weekend mass. SCRIP is also available at the School Office during regular business hours. SCRIP orders need to be received by

December 15 to insure delivery before Christmas. All National Scrip Center purchases that we make between 12/1 and 1/31 will be counted toward a contest that could reap St. Matthew's a \$500 prize.

### CONFIRMATION STUDENT MEETING

Tonight at 4:00 PM in the main church. Please remember to bring your bible and your Confirmation book. We will celebrate mass together at 5:00 PM following the meeting.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DECEMBER MASS

A reminder for students to gather on Wednesday, December 11, at 6:30 PM in the church for Mass. Students should bring a non-perishable food item for the local Food Shelf. Parents, other family members, and the parish community are invited to attend.

### FLOWERS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS SEASON CELEBRATIONS

We will decorate our sanctuary with flowers, plants, and other decorations on Christmas, December 25 and throughout the Christmas season. If you would like to make a donation for flowers in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone, or anonymously, your name and intention will be published in the December 29th bulletin. Forms are available in the back of church on the SCRIP table, and also in the Parish Center.

### RECEIVING COMMUNION

"When receiving Holy Communion in the hand, the communicant bows his or her head before the sacrament as a gesture of reverence and receives the Body of the Lord from the minister.... When Holy Communion is received under both kinds, the sign of reverence is also made before receiving the Precious Blood." (IGMR2002USA#160/2) Also, refer to our archdiocesan brochure "Reception of the Blood of Christ: Communion from the Cup."

### ROSARY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

This annual Christmas Bake Sale will be held before and after the masses on December 14 and 15. They will sell a variety of breads, cookies, fruit-cakes, and candies. They will be baking in the Social Hall kitchen on Tuesday, December 10 from 7-9:30 pm and on Friday, December 13 from 1-4:00 pm. Donations from parishioners will be gladly accepted. If you can make a special recipe but don't have time to bake it, bring it on Tuesday or Friday and we'll bake and package it for the sale. They will accept donations of baked goods at those times and before the masses next Saturday and Sunday.

## THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 8</b>
12:00 PM, CH	Baptism
12:30 PM, CH	Baptism
1:00 PM, CH	Baptism
4:00 PM, MC	Confirmation Mtg

<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 9</b>
6:45 AM, MC	Feast of the
8:30 AM, MC	Immaculate
5:15 PM, MC	Conception Masses

3:00 PM, SH	Loaves & Fishes
6:00 PM, PC	Girl Scout Meeting

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 10</b>
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves & Fishes
7:00 PM, SH	Rosary Scty Baking

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 11</b>
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves & Fishes
6:30 PM MC	Religious Education Mass

12:00-7 PM, MC	St. Mary's Clinic
7:00 PM, SH	Men's Club Genl Mtg

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 12</b>
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves & Fishes
6:30 PM, PC	Siberian Carmelite Mtg

<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 13</b>
1:00 PM, SH	Rosary Scty Baking

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 14</b>
After mass, SH	Christmas Bake Sale
GIFT GIVING WEEKEND IN CHURCH	

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 15</b>
After masses, SH	Christmas Bake Sale and Santa Breakfast
GIFT GIVING WEEKEND IN CHURCH	

2:00 PM, MC	Communal
4:00 PM, MC	Reconciliation

### Abbreviations:

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

## STEWARDSHIP

The stewardship offering for Sunday, December 1, 2002: \$11,503.00 We are behind the target amount for this calendar year.

**Youth treasure:** \$15.25 donated in the children and young people's envelopes.

**Second Collection for the School:** \$1094.00

**Thanksgiving Collection:** \$489.63

Thank you to Bob Redding and Mary Ann Kosel for the gift of a parish Christmas tree.

**Stewardship is a way of life—a graciousness by which I return to God a portion of what God has lavished on me.**

### COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION DURING ADVENT

There will be communal reconciliation on Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm in church.

### ST. MATTHEW'S LEISURE CLUB

The Christmas Party will be held on December 11th at the Cherokee Sirloin Room. This is a party for members only. Social Hour will be from 11:30 am-12:00 noon; lunch will be served at 12:00 noon.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 8,	John Bandholz Renee Charboneau George Gubash Living & Deceased Members of Catholic Aid Scty Michael & Helen Hannegraf
Monday, December 9	<b>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</b>
Tuesday, December 10	Irene & Clarence Bunde
Wednesday, December 11	Marcella Laurence
Thursday, December 12	Jacob & Anna Block
Friday, December 13	
Saturday, December 14	Ivan Klein Bernard Ferber Helen Whebbe

## WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 8, 2002

Sunday, December 8:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8
Monday, December 9:	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday, December 10:	Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday, December 11:	Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday, December 12:	Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38
Friday, December 13:	Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday, December 14:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:10-13
Next Sunday, December 15:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

## 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>Mary Colleen Hau, SSND</i>
Dir. Child Care.....	<i>Maureen Gitlin</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 Goldenstein	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.....	Peter Grayson
Education Advisory .....	Michele Edwards
Liturgy	