

The Community of St. Matthew

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



Dear Children of Saint Matthew's and Young Visitors:

Christmas is Jesus' birthday. People all over the world celebrate His birthday. Christmas is the biggest birthday party I can imagine. One of the special parts of Jesus' birthday is the appearance of Saint Nicholas. He is part of every Christmas celebration. In the United States we call him Santa Claus. He is kind and gentle and helpful. He brings gifts to everyone on Jesus' birthday. Children of every country wait for his arrival, and in every country he is called by a special name.

In the United States we call St. Nicholas "Santa Claus." He got this name because we couldn't pronounce his Dutch name "Sinter Klaas". His bishop's hat is changed into a pointed Santa hat. His candy cane is all that is left of his bishop's staff.

St. Nicholas is eagerly awaited by Russian children too. Russian children call him "Grandfather Frost". He brings children gifts in the middle of the night at Christmas and he wears an ice-blue coat that is lined with fur.

In England he is called "Father Christmas" and brings children presents on Christmas Eve night.

In France he is known as "Pere Noel" and to celebrate the birthday of Jesus he brings gifts to children. He looks almost like our Santa.

In Northern Germany the children call him "Pelze Nicole" and his name really means "Furry Nicholas".

These are just a few of the names that children all over the world call this wonderful person who helps all people celebrate the birthday of Jesus.

Jesus is born to bring all people to God. He comes among us as a little baby so that we will not be afraid of God – nobody is afraid of a baby!

His birthday is celebrated all over the world and his special friend, Saint Nicholas, sometimes called Santa Claus or Pelze Nicole or Father Christmas or Sinter Klaas or Grandfather Frost or so many other names, brings us gifts to remind us how special we are and how much God loves us – and how God gives us the very best gift of all, Jesus His Son.

Merry Christmas.



Father Steve



PARISH EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING BULLETIN DEADLINE

Notices for the bulletin of January 5 need to be in the parish center by December 30 at noon. Notices may also be sent to the following email address: bulletin.editor@st-matts.org

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS We will accept end of year contribution through December 31, the parish center will be open until 5:00 pm on December 31st, if you would like to drop it off.

CHRISTMAS MASS AT SAINT MATTHEW'S

DECEMBER 24TH

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS, 4:30 PM

DECEMBER 25TH

MIDNIGHT MASS, 12:00 MIDNIGHT

MASS AT DAWN, 8:00 AM

MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY, 10:30 AM

ST. MATTHEW'S ROSARY SOCIETY ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

We will be combining with the 2nd Annual West Side Community Bloodmobile on Sunday, December 29th from 9:00 am—2:00 pm. The blood drive will take place at Neighborhood House instead of here at St. Matthew's. Childcare provided for blood donors! Please bring I.D.. Call Gilbert Delae at 651-789-2544 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Give a special gift this Holiday Season. The Gift of Life.

EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS



ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL is on Christmas break until January 6. The students, teachers and staff wish the St. Matthew community a blessed holiday season.

ST. MATTHEW'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION will meet again on Wednesday, January 8.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHILD CARE AND EXTENDED DAY are open during the Christmas vacation to provide quality care for children of our community.

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."

THE ROSARY SOCIETY wants to thank everyone who contributed to our very successful **Christmas Bake Sale**. Rosary Society members and other parishioners very generously donated a variety of cookies, candies, breads, and snacks--we received about three times the number of items as last year. Buyers were very big-hearted and many told us to "keep the change." We want to especially thank the Boy Scouts for allowing us to be a part of the Breakfast with Santa event. We raised about \$1,050 that we will use to fund programs for the parish.

SAINT AGNES HIGH SCHOOL

Open House on Thursday, January 9, 2003 at 7:00 pm. Placement exam, Saturday, January 18, 2003 beginning at 8:30 am.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	December 22
Monday	December 23
3:00 pm, SH	Loaves and Fishes
4:00 pm, CH	Private celebration of Reconciliation
7:00 pm, CH	Private celebration of Reconciliation
Tuesday	December 24
10:00 am, CH	Private celebration of Reconciliation
3:00 pm, SH	Loaves and Fishes
4:30 pm, MC	Christmas Eve Mass
Wednesday	December 25
12:00 am, MC	Midnight Mass
8:00 am, MC	Mass at Dawn
10:30 am, MC	Mass of Christmas Day
Thursday	December 26
Friday	December 27
Saturday	December 28
Sunday	December 29

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 15: \$14,250.87. The weekly budgeted amount from plate and envelope is \$10,000. We are behind the target amount for this calendar year. *Youth treasure:* \$12.95 donated in children and young peoples' envelopes. *Annual Collection for Religious Retirement 2002:* \$3684.00. *Collection to feed the hungry taken at Penance Service:* \$2481.85. *Stewardship is a way of life — a graciousness by which I return to God a portion of what God has lavished on me.* S.j. adrian

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 22	Marie Wiler (Anniversary)
8:00 am	Rose Garcia
10:30 am	Parishioners
Monday, December 23	Gertrude Mack
	Bernice Taube
Tuesday, December 24	Philip Gilberg
4:30 pm	Art and Corinne Roalke
	Helen Clemens (Ann'y)
Wednesday, Dec. 25	Deceased members of Lang
12:00 am	Family
8:00 am	Lucile and Charles Mitchell
10:30 am	Parishioners
Thursday, December 26	
Friday, December 27	Robert Stickler
	Jerry Husman
Saturday, December 28	James Fee
	Helen Devlin Lang
	John and Irene Pacht
Sunday, December 29	Margaret Devlin (Ann'y)
10:30 am	Parishioners

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 22, 2002

Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
Monday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
Wednesday:	Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
Thursday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Friday:	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:2-8
Saturday:	1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Next Sunday:	Sir 3:2-7, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40

PARISH DIRECTORY

Saint Matthew Church Office 651-224-9793

Pastoral Staff

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

Phone Numbers

Fax.....	651-228-9448
Parish School.....	651-224-6912
Extended Day.....	651-228-1535
Child Care Center.....	651-224-1450
Liturgy and Music Voicemail.....	651-310-0830
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	