

The Community of St. Matthew

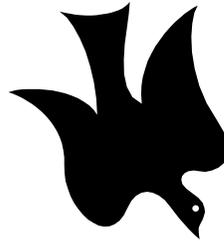
CONGRATULATIONS

CONFIRMED AT THE ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL
ON THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007

THOMAS AHERN
FRANCIS BUNGUE
BRIANA CASTILLO KEARNS
COLLEEN EPPERLY
AVA GARDNER
RICHARD JENNIGES
BENJAMIN KEMPE

SARAH LOPEZ
NICHOLAS LUNA
THOMAS MAHOWALD
KAYLARAE McDONOUGH
MELISSA MIKE

MARCUS NISAN
BRYAN NOWAK
ANNA SONDAY
JOSEPH SONTOYA
BENJAMIN VASTERLING
CASEY VIELLIEUX
ELIZABETH ZWEBER



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

CELEBRATING AT THE BASILICA ON MAY 5
MARLOWE FOSS

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

The massacre at Virginia Tech on April 16th continues to fill the papers and the 24/7 media coverage. In all this coverage there is the struggle to “understand”, to make sense out of it, to answer the question “why”; and yet no amount of information satisfies the hunger to “know”.

More is known about “the shooter” than one can comprehend – and yet, all that knowledge and dissecting of information provides no answer – no satisfying answer.

We approach the massacre at Virginia Tech as a problem in search of a solution. In fact, there is no solution. Rather, as in so many instances we are asked to stand in the middle of a mystery – a collapse of “what should be”. That place is never comfortable and never satisfying; especially for the Western mind that seeks “the” solution.

Our lives are not problems in search of a solution; our lives are mysteries to be experienced.

On the morning of April 16th the campus of Virginia Tech was a place of light and darkness, hope and despair, courage and fear, good and evil, cowardice and heroism. There is no rational, logical, sequential, syllogistic framework to hold the day and the lives of not only those on campus, but of billions of people who watched in dismay and disbelief around the globe.

For men and women of faith the question often asked is “How could a just (or loving) God allow this to happen?” “If God is just, why do innocent people suffer?”

Throughout history theologians, philosophers, artists,

poets, believers and unbelievers have tried to wrestle “the problem of evil” to the ground. And the answers are legion and the satisfaction is skinny. For Jews, Muslims and Christians the wrestling begins in the opening chapters of the Book of Genesis in the story of Cain and Abel. The author simply seeks to teach that when evil enters the world, it enters the world through the choices of human beings – it is not an act of God, it is the work of God’s creature endowed with free will. That doesn’t answer the “why”. Because there is no answer.

“ I am absolutely convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, can possibly separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8: 38-39).”

It is this conviction of faith that we hold onto tenuously as we stand in the midst of the whirlwind of evil and destruction.

This is fundamentally unsatisfying to anyone seeking “a solution”; it is the humble posture of the believer surrounded by the mystery of life. In all of this “not knowing”, what I do know is that God is present and never leaves me alone.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

OPENING RITUAL THIS EASTER SEASON

The Opening Ritual this Easter Season combines the prayerful silence that began the worship during Lent with an opening song that celebrates the Easter joy. The Lenten journey brought us to an understanding of the role that deep silence plays in focusing our hearts on the liturgy we are about to enter. When the church bell finishes its glorious peal, our voices take up the joyous song. This opening song, according to the wise directives of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, serves to open the celebration; foster the unity of those gathered; and introduce the gathered assembly’s thoughts to the liturgy of the day (#47).

FIRST FRIDAY 5:15 PM MASS

There will be no mass on Friday, May 4 at 5:15.

FIRST COMMUNIONS CELEBRATED THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, April 29, 10:30 AM —Andrea Gonzalez, Natalie Mendez, Drew Johnson. Please welcome them to the Lord’s Table with open arms and offer your congratulations.

COFFEE HOUR THIS SUNDAY

Coffee Hour after both Sunday masses is being served by Family Schletty. Thanks. All are welcome to stop by for a hot cup of coffee, good things to eat in the Social Hall.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN, TO UNDERSTAND BETTER

You are invited to hear Jill Joseph and Tamim Saidi, to local American Muslims from the Islamic Resource Group, speak about their beliefs and debunk some of the myths which tend to feed an uninformed and irrational fear of Islam. They will speak on Monday, April 30 from 7:00-9:00 PM at the Carondelet Center, 1884 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul. This event is sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the Sister of St. Joseph and Consociates. Free and open to the public. Free will offering accepted to support the education work of the Islamic Resource Group.

EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS



CINCO DE MAYO PARADE

Students, teachers and families of St. Matthew's School will join this year's Grand Marshall, Father Stephen Adrian, in the Cinco de Mayo parade on Saturday, May 5. The parade begins at 9:00 AM, come and join our float in the parade. For more information please call Tiffany at the school office, 224-6912.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHILD CARE SAYS THANKS

The children and teachers at St. Matthew's Child Care wish to thank Baker Head Start for their donation of furniture to the program. Baker Head Start donated a sensory table, hanging rack, Lego table and a round table to the Child Care. Stop in and visit the children and check out the new furniture.

ATTENTION GARDENERS

As you plan your spring purchase, please consider supporting St. Matthew's Boy Scout Troop 107. The boys will be selling Linders Garden Center gift cards at all masses next week, May 5 & 6. The cards are available in \$10, \$25 and \$50 values and are accepted at the main garden center on Larpenter Ave. as well as the many Linder's markets around the area. The scouts are earning money to go to camp. They will attend Tomahawk Boy Scout camp in August as well as a North shore trip in June. Some will backpack on Isle Royale while younger boys will explore the many state parks along Lake Superior.

ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

Boy Scouts from Troop 107 will be collecting aluminum cans on May 5 and 6 at all Masses. Please bring aluminum cans only to the Scout trailer in the parking lot. Scouts will be there to accept your cans. Thank you again for your continued support.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

The second collection on this weekend will be taken up for the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive. The Knights will be in the back of church after masses to give out Tootsie Rolls. The proceeds from the donations will go to programs for the developmentally disabled. The drive is sponsored by the West St. Paul Knights of Columbus. The Knights will also be selling chances to win a beautiful framed painting by Robert Lau of the St. Paul Cathedral. The chances are \$10 a piece, or 3 for \$20. You may see the painting and buy a chance after each Mass. The painting is valued at \$1,400. The proceeds from the painting will be used to fund the Wakota Life Care Center. Thank you for your support.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of April 29, 2007

Sunday:	Acts 13:14, 43-52/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/ Jn 10:27-30
Monday:	Acts 11:1-18/Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26/Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 12:24—13:5a/Jn 12:44-50
Thursday:	1 Cor 15:1-8/Jn 14:6-14
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33/Jn 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52/Jn 14:7-14
Next Sunday:	Acts 14:21-27/Rv 21:1-5a/ Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday 9:00 AM, PC 10:30 AM, MC	April 29 Council Candidates Informational Meet- ing First Communions
Monday 3:00 PM, SH	April 30 Loaves and Fishes
Tuesday 3:00 PM, SH 7:00 PM, MC	May 1 Loaves and Fishes Guitar Group
Wednesday 9:00 AM, MC 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 7:00 PM, SH	May 2 School Mass— Project Rainbow Celebration St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes Men's Club Board Meeting
Thursday 3:00 PM, SH 5:00 PM, MC 7:00 PM, MC	May 3 Loaves and Fishes Youth Choir Adult Choir
Friday 7:15 AM-5:15 PM, CH There will be no	May 4 Eucharistic Adoration 5:15 PM Mass
Saturday 8:30 AM, PC 9:00 AM	May 5 Liturgy Committee Cinco de Mayo parade
Sunday 10:30 AM, MC	May 6 First Communions

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

Paul and Barnabas encountered both violent rejection and joyful acceptance of the message that they preached. We, too, may meet with mixed reactions when we use our gifts in the service of God. But, the Gospel assures us, the reward for those who follow faithfully is eternal life.

Thank you for the following examples and encouragement witnessed on the stewardship envelopes:

Prayer: This week, many “amounts” of prayer—thank you. 15 minutes each day; 30 minutes each day; every morning and evening; this week: 7 hours; 12 hours; 14 hours; 14 hours!!

Service: Reading with students, volunteering in general, was a money counter, visited 3rd graders, visited the home-bound, served on liturgy committee, was a greeter before Mass, participated in parish music ministry. Thanks!

Sharing: Electronic, plate and envelope givers gave \$7,658 this past weekend. We are about \$69,000 behind budgeted collections for this fiscal year [July-June]. The average weekend is close to \$9,500. That is the number that we will use for budgeting Sunday income for the coming fiscal year [\$1,600 per Sunday less than this year]. Other donations this last weekend: Holy days: \$115, School Fund: \$185.

Young people’s stewardship: \$2.00. The young people wrote about saying their daily and mealtime prayers, helping with laundry and dishes, helping make dinner, spent time with grandma and helping a neighbor.

Window project WE DID IT!! THANK YOU!! Together we have given about 1% more than needed for replacement of ALL the windows in the parish center—all four floors! The additional money—and any more than may be given will help to purchase new air-conditioners for all the floors.

Special thanks to Sister Virginia Bieren, SSND, a 3rd floor resident, who arranged for the printing and distribution of the materials; to Richard Schlety, designer of the “Window-ometer”; to the anonymous parishioner who gifted 15 windows, and the anonymous challenger who will be purchasing 7 windows since 70 were purchased since the challenge was issued!

The book containing a list of donors, those memorialized and those honored is in the chapel of the parish center

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 *Dana McCarthy*
 Dir. Child Care..... *Dimary Rosado*
 Dir. KLT Kids.....*Jennifer Slaten*
 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
 Child Care..... 651-224-1459
 KLT Kids 651-665-0786
 Liturgy and Music Voicemail 651-310-0830

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	Larry Sachi
Nicole Johnson	John Sekevitch
Connie Aligada	Sister Joanna Illg
Lucus Ecker	Mark Thomford
Sheila Brunelle	Stephen Adrian

Committee Chairs

Finance.....
 Education Advisory Richard Dunn