

The Community of St. Matthew



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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

For more than a year the Archbishop met weekly with members of a committee to plan for an archdiocesan wide planning process.

The numbers of priests is diminishing and will continue to diminish for the foreseeable future. In addition to that, the average age of priests is rising. The numbers of Catholics in the archdiocese is increasing – largely through immigration.

Many parishes and institutions had been living beyond their means and the amount of debt accumulated is great. The vast majority of ministry in the church is no longer undertaken by religious sisters or brothers or priests, but by lay women and men. The need to invest in the education and professional training of this growing lay church ministry becomes more critical each year. Most parishes function as independent entities, there is little if any sharing of personnel or facilities or programs across parish lines. The demographics indicate that there are a growing number of low income parishes and a growing number of high income parishes, but the numbers of middle income parishes is decreasing – this merely reflects the Twin Cities' demographics and income.

Saint Matthew's School is an exception to most Catholic Schools. Our enrollment greatly increased last school year and will continue to grow for the coming school year. Most Catholic schools continue to experience a gradual decrease in enrollment – this again reflects the decrease in the numbers of school age children across the metropolitan area.

What this and so much more data indicates is that the face of the Catholic Church in the Twin Cities is changing and we must respond to those changes to make the best use of our personnel and financial resources.

In the spring of this year each pastor was asked to submit a profile of the parish – numbers of families, numbers of baptisms, marriages, funerals, numbers of students in school and religious education programs, etc. Each parish ministry was inventoried and parish financial condition was reported.

In the late spring and early summer pastors were asked to meet in regional meetings to talk about possible areas in which parishes could cooperate in sharing personnel, facilities, programs, etc.

During the month of July each pastor was asked to attend a regional meeting with representatives from the parish

finance committee and the parish council. The purpose of the meeting was to reflect on ways in which greater sharing of resources might make ministry more effective.

In August and September parish ministry groups will be asked to participate in regional meetings to offer ideas and suggestions on the best use of our resources in light of changing demographics.

On Thursday, October 1st, members of Saint Paul parishes – especially those in leadership positions – council members, members of parish committees, boards of societies and clubs and any parishioner who so desires is invited to a meeting at Holy Spirit Church, 7-9 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to hear a report and most importantly to offer ideas and thoughts and practical suggestions.

During the winter months the Planning Committee will develop recommendations to the Archbishop and in the late spring of next year will present those recommendations to the Archbishop. It is expected that a year from now the Archbishop will be in a position to announce a process of restructuring which will allow us to use our resources – personal and material – in a more effective way in living out our faith life in the Twin Cities.

Following that announcement there will be another process to allow parish leadership to react and critique the restructuring.

The Saint Matthew Parish Council is developing a process which will allow our parish leaders to participate and contribute to the discussions on October 1st in a strong manner.

I invite all to keep the evening of October 1st open to participate in this meeting.

Change is never easy, yet the history of the church has been a history of change in bringing the Gospel to women and men in an ever changing world.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS

FALL FESTIVAL CORNER

Fall Festival FIVE weeks away. TIME TO bring those items you have collected for the various booths. New this year a "living" PLANT BOOTH. Now is the time to start the cuttings from house plants. Outside plants that will grow nicely inside could also be transplanted soon. Brush up on your favorite recipes for the BAKERY BOOTH; breads, cookies, bars, candies, brownies etc. Pies for the PIE BOOTH, Sister Anne Becker will chair that booth and it will provide an inviting treat during the festival. Don't forget the cake walk. Sue Nowak will have her TACO BOOTH. This year we will have a salsa contest to see who at St. Matt's is able to create the best salsa; it will give you an opportunity to use your extra garden products, tomatoes, onions, peppers etc. Raffle tickets will be available for the quilt and it will be on display in the Church.

BP GAS CARDS AT SCRIP TABLE!

Rainbow shoppers – We now have an inventory of \$50 BP gas cards available at the scrip table. Use them when you redeem your fuelperks and St. Matthew's will also benefit from your purchase.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS NEEDED

If you are interested in sharing your faith with the young people of our parish, please call Doug Lieser at the school office at 651-224-6912. Training is provided. Thank you to all our teachers who give so generously of their times. Religious Education classes for students in grade 1-10 will beginning on September 16. Registration for students will be the weekend of September 12-13 after all masses. Questions, please call the school office.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR IN NEED

Every weekend, food is collected at St. Matthew's to help those who are struggling to put food on their table. Some of the groceries are taken by, or to parish members on the weekend. The remaining food is taken to the Neighborhood House Food Shelf. We depend on contributions from YOU. Please help us by bringing a non-perishable food item with you as part of your weekly Eucharistic celebration, or make a monetary offering in the yellow envelopes provided in the back of church. A few extra grocery bags along with your donations would also be much appreciated. St Matthew's Food Ministry thanks you.

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	August 16
Monday	August 17
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Tuesday	August 18
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Wednesday	August 19
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Thursday	August 20
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Friday	August 21
Saturday	August 22
Sunday	August 23

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me." - Jn 6:56-57

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

“Those who seek the Lord want for no good thing,” says today’s Psalm. But in the second reading Saint Paul reminds us that, thus blessed by the Lord, the good steward should “give thanks to God the Father always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” When, last, have I catalogued all of the blessings I/my family has received? How frequent are my prayers of thanksgiving?

Sharing Last weekend \$11,580 was given through the usual channels. Thanks to faithful stewards. Fiscal year-to-date total: \$54,768. That amount is \$768 greater than budget. As well, \$253 was given in education envelopes; \$50 for Annual Catholic Appeal; and \$10 in Assumption envelopes. Thanks.

Service: Volunteered at Neighborhood House... Loaves & Fishes... volunteered to serve funeral luncheons... money counter.

Prayer: Daily prayer... meal prayers... spiritual reading... pilgrimage... attended Holy Spirit Conference.

Parish Calendar For many years a calendar has been prepared for the school—listing activities, etc. This summer all staff have made an effort to make a ‘parish calendar’ which lists Masses, meetings and many parish activities. They will be available the first weekend in September. Plan on picking one up at the entrances to Church.

The usual yearly calendar, paid for by Bradshaw, will be available right before January, 2010.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of August 16, 2009
 Sunday: Prv 9:1-6/Eph 5:15-20/Jn 6:51-58
 Monday: Jgs 2:11-19/Mt 19:16-22
 Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a/Mt 19:23-30
 Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Mt 20:1-16
 Thursday: Jgs 11:29-39a/Mt 22:1-14
 Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Mt 22:34-40
 Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Mt 23:1-12
 Next Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

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 and KLT Shar Lavelle
 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
 Prayer Line 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

Karen Thompson Georgann Henjum
 Connie Aligada Joyce Osborne
 Jason Delmont Anthony Minus
 Dean Steinbrenner Chris Stevens
 Stephen Adrian David Burrows