

The Community of St. Matthew



JOIN US FOR ST. MATTHEW'S TROOP 107 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

We're having Breakfast with Santa
on Sunday, December 10
8:30 AM until 12:30 PM
Breakfast includes: Sausage, eggs, beverages
and all-you-can eat pancakes!
Costs are: \$6.00 for ages 12 and up
\$3.50 for ages 11 and under

Have your photo taken with Santa for only \$3.00



ROSARY SOCIETY BAKE SALE

Saturday, December 9
before and after 5:00 PM Mass
Sunday, December 10
during the Santa Breakfast
Christmas cookies, fruitcake, breads,
caramels, and other holiday treats



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

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

Collection to fund Retirement Fund for Religious: This weekend we take up the annual collection that funds the retirement needs of women and men Religious in the United States. Religious sisters and brothers have been the backbone of the health care and education ministries of the Church in the United States from the beginning. For more than 200 years these religious were not compensated – they received a small monthly stipend. No thought was given to the retirement needs of community members, and because of the large number of working sisters and brothers there was adequate provision for the retirement and health needs of religious. Today the average age of Religious sisters and brothers is rising and the retirement needs are growing. This collection is NOT an act of charity. It is a work of JUSTICE. We are called upon to provide the deferred compensation for hundreds of years of dedicated service. I encourage you to be generous to this annual collection.

Parish Communal Penance Celebration:

Sunday, December 17th we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communal Reconciliation in preparation for the Christmas Feast and Season.

Sunday, December 17th
Reconciliation
2:00 and 4:00 pm

Invite family and friends to join you for Christmas

Worship: The Christmas Feast provides us with an opportunity to welcome visitors to worship. I encourage you to invite a family member or friend to join you for Christmas Mass. Sometimes people who have not been to church for a while feel uncomfortable to come to church alone, they will welcome an invitation to join someone else. Please offer this invitation. All of us need to remember to be welcoming and hospitable to visitors this Christmas Season. Hospitality is a virtue associated with the Christmas Season – we celebrate the Feast and Season of God coming to dwell with us, God seeking a hospitable welcome.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING

On Tuesday, December 12, starting at 6:45 PM, we will have our meeting and Christmas party. We will announce the results of our Christmas Bake Sale and play Bingo. Join us for friendship, great food, and many door prizes.

NO COFFEE SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND

There will be no Coffee Hour after both Sunday masses this weekend. All are invited to join in on Breakfast with Santa. Coffee Hour will resume Sunday 12/17/06.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The parish council meeting will meet on Sunday, December 10 at 6:45 PM in the parish center. Agenda may be found on the bulletin board in the back of the church or on the website. All are welcome to attend.

THE ST. MATTHEW'S MEN'S CLUB AUCTION, HARRY BRADY AUCTIONEER

Join the Men's Club at 8:00 PM Wednesday December 13 for the annual holiday auction – proceeds to the St. Matthew's gifting and the retirement fund of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

MEN'S CLUB BORDER BATTLE #2

The next 2006 Vikings/Packers showdown is at 7:00 PM on Thursday, December 21. Take a break from your holiday activities and watch it on the big screen in the Social Hall. Adult admission is \$10 and includes refreshments and snacks, plus food at half time. All Viking and Packer fans, adults & children, are welcome!! Doors open at 6:30 PM.

A MULTITUDE OF THANK YOU'S

A Big "Thank you" goes out to Evergreen Industries for their annual gift of evergreen wreathes & garland that grace our worship space, as well as the main entrances to our Chapel & Church. The Liturgy Committee also wants to thank Larry for adapting our wooden candle stands to hold the pillar candles for our Advent Wreath; Pat & Ann for their creative design of our Advent Wreath; Linda, Ann & Mary Ann for "bringing Advent" to our Chapel and Church environments; David, Mike, Kathy, Reyes & Brian for harvesting and hoisting our Gifting Tree into place; Tony & Jeanne for stringing lights on the tree; and Kathy & Mike for "fire proofing" the tree & braving the cold to hang the garland & wreathes 'round our front doors. It "takes a village" to decorate the village! THANK YOU!

ROMANIAN TRIP

Twenty-five people have shown an interest in traveling to Romania the first two weeks in June, 2007. If anyone in the parish would like to sponsor a child to come along, we would be willing to take 3 children (ages 12-18). Any questions call Joe or Florida Stevens at 224-8270. Next meeting will be on January 13, 2007 at 2:00 PM at Hugh and Monica O'Kane's resident.

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS



ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING

As a part of the curriculum at St. Matthew's School each class participates in a service learning project. Many of these projects take place during the late fall and early winter months. The 8th grade class conducted a Thanksgiving Food

Drive and then packed and brought over 1100 items to the food shelf at the Neighborhood House. The 2nd grade class is collecting hats and mittens until December 20th. They will be given to a shelter to help other children. The 5th grade class is just beginning to collect personal care items to give to the guests of Loaves and Fishes as well as a homeless shelter. The 3rd grade class goes to the Cerenity Care Home each Tuesday to interact with the elders. They create art projects, play bingo, and have a chance to learn from these important members of our community. If you would like to donate to any of the ongoing projects please leave donations either at the SCRIP table after weekend masses or bring them to the school. We are very proud of how our students are helping others in the community.

ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The students of St. Matthew's School will proudly present "A Miracle on Bethlehem Street" on Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 PM in the church. We invite all members of the parish to join in the fun.

FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

Way back when...late 80s...RENEW was a parish program...a group of couples [Barb & Rick Kraft, Judy & Bob DeNardo, Ginny & Bill Klingner, Danielle & Joe Wenker] took an action step of inviting parishioners to bring food; these people [after leaving some food for parishioners and others who came in need] transported the food to the food shelf. More recently, they have invited money donations because the food shelf has greater purchasing power than individuals. Since July, 2005, about \$1,200 has been collected. A check for 1/2 of that has been sent to the food shelf [the rest will be used to satisfy needs of our parishioners and others who come to our door]. Thanks to those who started this effort; to all those who transport the food; and to those who donate food and money on a regular or periodic basis.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL CHOIR:

We're still looking for "festival voices" to enrich our Christmas Midnight Mass. We have 2 rehearsals left. Join us Thursday nights in the church, from 7:00-8:00 PM.

ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

Boy Scout Troop 107 will be collecting Aluminum cans for recycling in January. Please save your cans from your holiday festivities and plan to bring them down on the weekend of January 6 and 7. Thanks for your continued support of our Boy Scouts.

CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS—NEW LEADERSHIP

Saint Matthew's Council #367, established in 1893, has elected new leaders. Don Danneker is the new Chief Ranger, Chuck Wagner is Deputy, along with Wayne Gilbertson and Joe Stevens as new trustees. Many thanks to the outgoing officers who have served for so many years, including Bob Heimel, Chief Ranger, and Al Austing, Financial Secretary. Also, thanks to Larry Poppler, Insurance Agent for his faithful support and guidance. The COF has provided financial support for the grade school and altar servers for over a century. It is a low key organization that we owe a debt of gratitude for their loyalty and support to St. Matthew's.

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM, SH	December 10 Breakfast with Santa and Rosary Society Bake Sale
Monday 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, SC 6:45 PM, XC	December 11 Loaves and Fishes Home and School Meeting Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday 3:00 PM, SH 6:45 PM, SH 7:00 PM, MC	December 12 Loaves and Fishes Rosary Society Christmas Party and Meeting School Christmas Concert
Wednesday 11:30 AM. Old Country Buffet 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, SC 8:00 PM, SH	December 13 Leisure Club Christmas Party St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes Religious Education Class, Grades 1-10 Men's Club Holiday Auction
Thursday 3:00 PM, SH 5:00 PM, MC 7:00 PM, MC	December 14 Loaves and Fishes Youth Choir Adult Choir
Friday	December 15
Saturday 9:00 AM, MC	December 16 Advent Morning Prayer and Reflections
Sunday 2:00 & 4:00 PM. MC 4:00 PM, SC	December 17 Communal Reconciliation Service Cub Scout Pack Mtg

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

STEWARDSHIP

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the Psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy."

Prayer: Who is your favorite Advent character? why? What characteristics does that person have? Spend some time this week reflecting on those qualities that make good Advent people...ask for the grace to be such a person.

Service: Thanks to those who finished the stewardship calling: Tom, Sheila, Connie, Lucus, Joanne and Becky. Thanks to those who come faithfully each Monday morning to count the weekend collection. There is room for more counters on some of the teams; if you are interested please call John at the parish center.

Sharing: Last weekend there was \$9552 contributed through envelopes, the plate, and electronically. Thank you. As well, there was \$160 given in holyday envelopes. Fiscal year-to-date \$210,672 has been given in Sunday envelopes and plate. Thanks to each "stewarding" family! Compared to this year's budget adopted in June, collections are \$44,628 behind—a \$1,860 weekly average. With the stewardship renewal process we will be able to budget more accurately for next year.

New envelopes: One of the items in the mailing this week is a sample of the next stewardship contribution envelope. Each registered family will receive envelopes on a bi-monthly basis. Family information will appear where the name, address, city blanks are now. Notice that the envelope is "mailable" as it is. There are reasons or occasions to bring an envelope each week: with your monetary gift enclosed; as an example and witness to the rest of the community; to indicate how we've been stewards of our time in prayer and our use of talents for the benefit of others. Along with the stewardship envelopes there will be envelopes for the other giving—holydays, capital fund, school, etc.

Envelopes for children [pre-school through grade 6] and youth will be available for pick-up and use in 2007. Please take a box and fill in your name next to the same number as the box.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 10, 2006

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
 Monday: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
 Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
 Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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. Marketing & Development..... *Maureen Gitlin*
 Business Administrator..... *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
 Liturgy and Music Voicemail651-310-0830

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
*- Facilitator	

Committee Chairs

Finance.....
 Education Advisory Richard Dunn