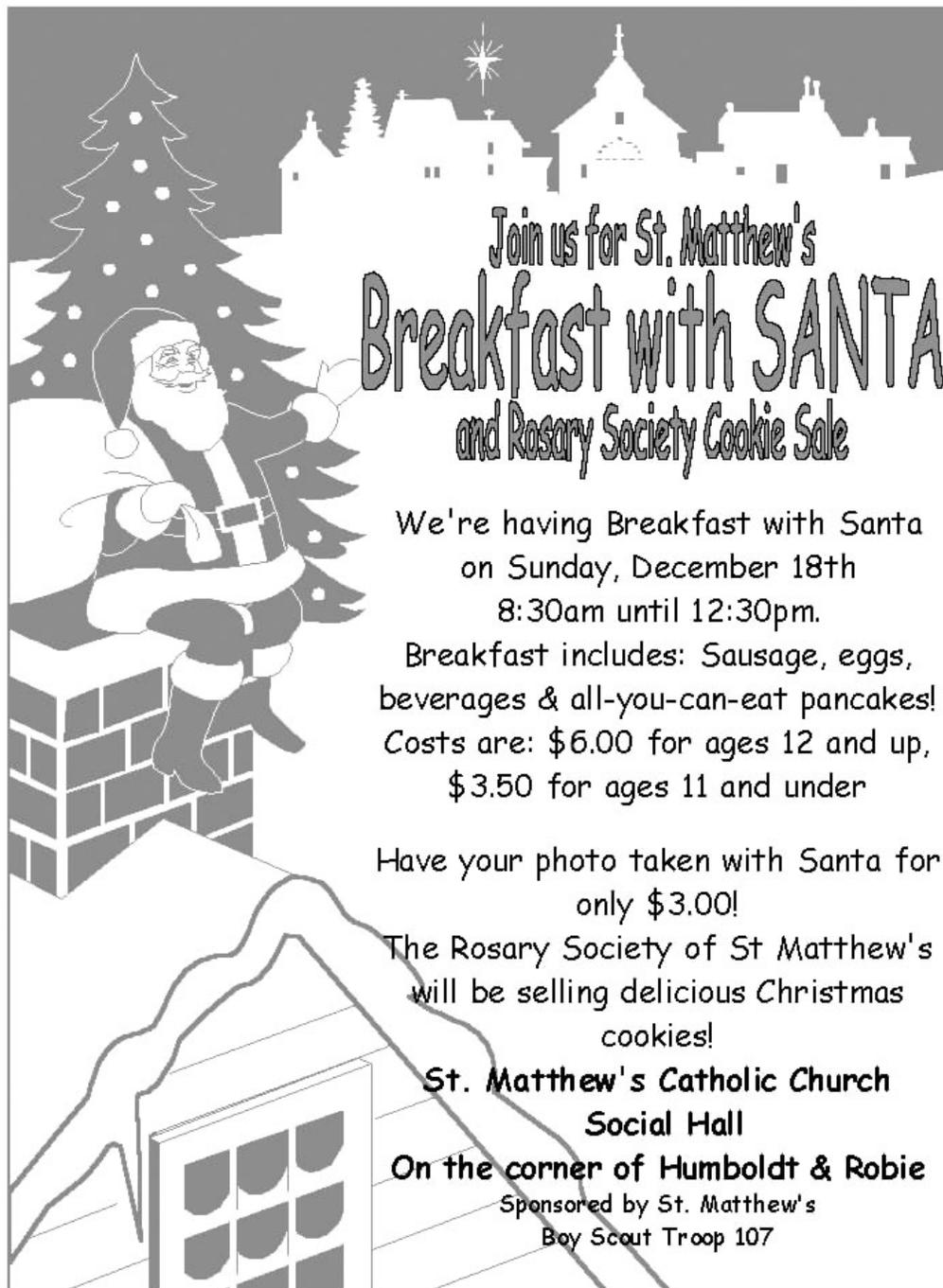


The Community of St. Matthew

*... 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 18th
8:30am until 12:30pm.
Breakfast includes: Sausage, eggs,
beverages & 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!
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:

The Vatican Council Decree on Ecumenism and the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation and the Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions opened new vistas for the Church.

The Council urged Catholic's everywhere to enter into a respectful dialogue with their non-Catholic Christian neighbors. As a result, throughout the world national and international dialogues were established. These were sponsored by the Catholic hierarchy and the national and international leadership of other Christian Churches.

In the United States the Catholic-Lutheran Dialogue began -- a dialogue that continues to this very day between Catholic and Lutheran leaders and scholars. Within the Twin Cities such work continued on a local level and ten year's ago issued in a joint accord signed by the Archbishop of the Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This local dialogue was and is very important -- what Rome is to Catholicism for American Catholics, Minneapolis is to Lutheranism for American Lutherans. In our own community a more than century old connection has been established between the Church of Saint Matthew and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church -- both parishes founded in 1886, both parishes founded by German immigrant farmers.

Following the Council a flurry of grass roots ecumenical efforts emerged. A neighborhood discussion program called "Living Room Dialogues" took place. For many this was the first time Catholic and Protestant neighbors sat down together to enter into a structured discussion and prayer. The purpose of these neighborhood meetings was to help us appreciate the rich Christian traditions that marked all of our churches.

Pope Paul VI told Catholics that true dialogue must be respectful, honest, open and trusting. The purpose of dialogue was to come together in searching the truth we each hold in order to come to a deeper appreciation of the mystery of Christ at work in our lives.

For Catholics the Council encouraged us to rediscover the riches of the Scriptures and to become people of the "Book". For so long we had abdicated the Scriptures to our Protestant

neighbors and defined ourselves almost exclusively through our sacramental life -- not realizing that the Word of God in Scripture is a primal sacrament of the power and glory and work of God.

The "Living Room Dialogues" allowed us to learn so much from our Protestant neighbors about the Word of God -- they also allowed us the opportunity to share deeply our faith grounded in the seven Sacraments.

The Declaration on the Church's Relationship with Non-Christian Religions opened some doors between Catholics and Jews. We cannot forget that not so many decades earlier the Twin Cities was seen as one of the most anti-Semitic communities in the United States.

The Council reminded us that the roots of our Christian faith rested in Jewish faith and practice. Jesus was a Jew -- the King of the Jews. The early church was made up of Jewish converts to Christianity -- for a long time Christianity was seen as a fringe sect of Judaism. We were reminded that spiritually we are Semites and that our common father in faith is Abraham -- today we are making those same discoveries in dialogue with our Muslim neighbors. The Catholic-Jewish community, especially in Saint Paul, has grown ever stronger and vital in the past forty years. The partnership between the Jewish leadership of the cities and the University of Saint Thomas and the establishment of Catholic-Jewish Center of Studies is but one example of such partnership.

The Council launched us on a remarkable enterprise. What drives this ecumenical dialogue and cooperation is simply the last will and testament of Jesus -- "I pray that they all be one, as you Father are in me and I am in you, that they may be one in Us; so that the world may believe that you have sent me".

(continued next week)

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

COMMUNIAL RECONCILIATION SERVICE

The communal Reconciliation Service for Advent will be next Sunday at 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM in the main church.

ROSARY SOCIETY/CCW CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Rosary Society/CCW will be holding their Christmas Party at the December 13 meeting at 6:45 PM in the Social Hall.

CHRISTMAS BAKERY/CANDY SALE

The Rosary Society is having their annual Christmas Bake Sale next weekend. Rosary members are busy making candy, cookies, breads, and snacks. But we could use a little help. If you are making some Christmas delicacies, could you please make an extra batch and donate it to the sale. You may bring your donations to the Social Hall Saturday morning, December 17, from 9 to 12:30 or Saturday afternoon in the back of church from 4 to 6 p.m. or Sunday morning in the Social Hall. Please support our sale and help us to fund the many programs the Rosary Society supports both for St. Matthew's and for others who need assistance. Let us help you with your Christmas party needs and gifts for that hard-to-buy-for person

EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS



ARBY'S/S'BARRO NIGHT

Join St. Matthew's School families for an evening of good food and lively conversation on Thursday, December 15 from 4:00-8:00 PM at the Arby's on Robert Street. Tell them you are from St. Matthew's and the school receives 20% of your total order. Hope to see you there.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS THIS WEEK

Students in Grades 1-10 will have Religious Education Class this week. This is the last week of class before the Christmas break. Thank you to Doris Bisciglia and the 10th Grade class for planning the vigil mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and all the students and families who participated.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the volunteers and the families who helped with the Taco Dinner Benefit for the Schletty Family that was held on Saturday, November 19. With your dedication the benefit was a success. No words can express the gratitude of your hard work and support.

COFFEE HOUR TODAY!

Stop by after the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM masses Sunday (12/11/05) for coffee and rolls brought to you by the Men's Club - thanks. Last Sunday was covered by The Del Vecchio and Sekevitch families and thanks to Dana Demarest, Niki Stevens, Angie Stevens and her friend Zaire for pitching in too. Breakfast with Santa happens on Sunday 12/18/05 and there will be no coffee hour on Christmas day and New Year's day. Mark your calendar for Sunday January 8, 2006 for coffee hour hosted by KLT. Folks have been stepping up and volunteering to staff Sundays in January and February and all are welcome. If you and/or your family/group would like to help in the future or if you can commit to bringing baked goods for a future coffee hour contact John Del Vecchio at 651-221-0871.

RECTORY COMMITTEE

A committee of parish members is working on alternative uses for the rectory building and property. If any member of the parish has ideas they wish to share with the committee or wishes to join the committee, please call the Church office at 651-224-9793.

PARISH BROCHURE

One of the items parish members have asked for is a regularly updated brochure that describes the life and ministry of our parish and an invitation to new members to become involved in parish life. The Parish Council has taken up this task and is looking for parish members who may have some experience in marketing and communication to help with this work. If you are willing to help, please call the Church office at 651-224-9793

THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS GIFTING TREE

This year's tree was given to us by Mr. & Mrs. Frank Holec. Frank and his wife, friends of parishioners Bob and Sue Nowak, were happy to gift St. Matthew's with the Colorado blue spruce they had planted in their front yard over 20 years ago. We thank them for their generosity. We also thank David Rosas, Mike Moberg, Reyes Ledesma, Brian Osborne & Kathy Shepherd for successfully harvesting, installing & fire-proofing this daunting tree. It's a beauty -- (& "you ain't seen" the half of it")!

LEISURE CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Leisure Club will have their annual Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, December 15 at the Cherokee Sirloin Room. Social Hour begins at 11:30 AM with lunch served at noon. Door prizes will be awarded. There will be no January meeting of the Leisure Club.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	December 11
Monday 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, SC 6:45 PM, XC	December 12 Loaves and Fishes Education Advisory Committee Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday 3:00 PM, SH 6:45 PM, SH 7:00 PM, MC	December 13 Loaves and Fishes Rosary Society/CCW St. Matthew's School Christmas Play/ Concert
Wednesday 11:30 AM 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, SC	December 14 Leisure Club Christmas Party- Cherokee Sirloin Room St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes Religious Education Class—Grades 1-10
Thursday 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 4:00 -8:00 PM 5:00 PM, MC 6:30 PM, SC 7:00 PM, MC	December 15 St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes Arby's/S'Barro Night Youth Choir Brownie Troop 163 Adult Choir
Friday	December 16
Saturday	December 17
Sunday 8:30 AM-12:00 PM SH 2:00 PM, MC 4:00 PM, MC	December 18 Breakfast with Santa and Rosary Society Bake Sale Communal Reconciliation Service Communal Reconciliation Service

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

Plate and envelope-December 4: \$11,560.47
 Needed per week: \$9,457.00

Plate & envelope to date: \$191,475.00
 Need to date: \$217,511.00
 -26,306.00

School Collection \$1,018.54
 Holy Day \$286.00

Stewardship is a way of life—a graciousness by which I return to God a portion of what God has lavished. s.j. adrian

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 11 8:00 AM Agnes DeFoe,
 John Meyers, Ed Maher
 10:30 AM The Bisciglia
 Family, Parishioners
 Monday, December 12 Parishioners
 Tuesday, December 13 Lateresa Schletty
 Wednesday, December 14 World Peace
 Thursday, December 15 Parishioners
 Friday, December 16
 Saturday, December 17 Joseph Karas, Sr., Joseph
 Karas, Jr.
 Sunday, December 18 8:00 AM Joseph Blaeser,
 Robert Stickler, Sr.,
 Gerald Husman
 10:30 AM Harry Borowicz,
 Bernice & Louis DeNardo,
 Parishioners

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 11, 2005
 Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/ 1 Thes 5:16-24/
 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
 Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
 Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/ Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/ Lk 7:18b-23
 Thursday: Is 54:1-10/ Lk 7:24-30
 Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/ Jn 5:33-36
 Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/ Mt 1:1-17
 Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Rom 16:25-27/
 Lk 1:26-38

PARISH DIRECTORY

Saint Matthew Church Office..... 651-224-9793
 Web site: st-matts.org
 Bulletin Email: bulletin.editor@st-matts.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor..... *Father Stephen Adrian*
 Deacon..... *Rev. John Murphy*
 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
 Extended Day..... 651-228-1535
 KLT Kids 651-665-0786
 Liturgy and Music Voicemail..... 651-310-0830
 Prayerline Receiver..... 651-222-3622 or 651-454-5021

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 three months prior to wedding.

Parish Council Members

Parish Council email: *parishcouncil@st-matts.org*

Becky Montgomery Larry Sachi
 Marty Olson John Sekevitch
 Connie Aligada Sister Joanna Illg
 Lucus Ecker Mark Thomford
 Tony Joe Wenker Stephen Adrian

Committee Chairs

Finance..... *Linda Sellars*
 Education Advisory *Richard Dunn*