

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 13, 2009
9:00 AM until 12:00 PM
Breakfast includes: sausage, eggs,
beverages, and all-you-can eat pancakes!



\$7.00 for ages 12 and up
\$4.00 for ages 11 and under

Have your picture taken with Santa for only \$3.00!



ROSARY SOCIETY BAKE SALE

In the Social Hall

Saturday, December 12, 2009

1:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Sunday, December 13, 2009

Sale during Breakfast with Santa

Christmas cookies, fruitcake, sweet breads,
Caramels, candy, snacks and other holiday treats!

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

WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY OF SAINT MATTHEW • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

Last Sunday and this Sunday – the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of Advent – the Gospel according to Luke places the figure of John the Baptist before us. John is an icon for the season of Advent.

John's role was to lead people to Christ, to prepare the way so that the Lord might touch and open the hearts of all people. He insisted that one greater than he would come after him. He said without equivocation – I am not the Messiah!

In the 18th verse of the 3rd chapter of the Gospel according to Luke we are told:

With many exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

In the 3rd verse of that same chapter Luke tells us:

³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

The Church, the community of faith, the company of Disciples have the same role as John the Baptist – we are called to announce the coming of the Lord; we are to proclaim this good news; we are to call for a conversion so that this tired world can receive the gift of God – the human face of God – Jesus.

John says of himself in the 3rd chapter of Luke's Gospel, quoting the prophet Isaiah:

I am 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

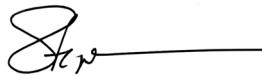
John is a one man road construction crew. He fills the potholes and smoothes the rough roads; he straightens out the winding trails and levels the heaving concrete. He makes it possible for people to come to the Lord, to see the face of the God of Salvation, to see the human face of God.

This is the role of the church; and sometimes we are very poor at doing it. Rather than preparing the way of the Lord we create obstacles. Deep crevasses and moats – hard to cross and treacherous – are created when we draw lines in the sand, refuse to enter into conversation and dialogue, issue condemnations and prohibitions from on high, demonize those with whom we have disagreements, question the motives of those who differ with us, refuse to allow free speech to those who in good faith see live differently than we do, hold out that "my understanding of the Word of God and the life of Jesus" is orthodox and all other are wrong, presume to judge who is worthy and who is unworthy to receive the sacraments or the rites of Christian burial.

When the church throws up barriers rather than filling the potholes we fail to "prepare the way of the Lord."

I know of no one who was ever drawn to the Lord by condemnation. I know many who have been drawn to the Lord by compassion and respect.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

Advent Communal Forgiveness
Sunday, December 20
2:00 & 4:00 pm (non-sacramental)

Fourth Sunday of Advent Eucharist
Saturday, December 19, 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 20, 8:00 and 10:30 am

Individual Reconciliation
Saturday, December 19, 4:00 pm
Monday, December 21, 4:00 pm
Tuesday, December 22, 7:15 am & 7:00 pm
Wednesday, December 23, 4:00 pm

ORDER HOLIDAY FRUIT BASKETS

Orders are being taken for holiday fruit baskets (small or large) which will be ready for pickup or delivery after the masses on December 13. Stop by the Scrip table to see a sample basket or to place an order. Local delivery is available for a nominal fee. Questions, call Tim 612-269-9471.

DID YOU KNOW ---

Half of the Neighborhood House Food Shelf participants are children? Each week donations are brought from St Matt's to Neighborhood House. 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. Thanks from St Matthew's Food Shelf Ministry.

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS

HOW IMMIGRATION FUELS OUR NATION

Taxes: All immigrants pay taxes, regardless of their immigration status. Immigrants pay federal and state income taxes, property taxes, and sales taxes. Although all immigrants pay taxes, only limited categories of immigrants— such as refugees— are eligible to receive short-term public assistance. Undocumented persons are not eligible for any public assistance program except emergency health care. *Immigration Sunday, January 3, 2010*

BREAKFAST AT APPLEBEE'S SPONSORED BY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The West St. Paul Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a breakfast at Applebee's in West St. Paul. Breakfast includes pancakes, eggs, sausages, juice and coffee for \$5.00. Joe Stevens from the Knights will be selling tickets after each mass by Tim Nowak, in the back of church. Breakfast will be served by the Knights from 8 to 10 AM December 19th at 1753 Robert Street.

COMMUNITY COFFEE TIME STARTS SUNDAY JANUARY 3, 2010

Coffees for a Cause will transition to the 4th Sunday of the Month from January through May. An open call is sent out for any and all to help keep the remaining Sunday Community Coffee Times going. Various St. Matthew's Parrish organizations are planning to host Jan – May Coffee hours and individual parish members/families are needed to help. Contact John Riehle at 651-224-0973 to learn more.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 13, 2009

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
 Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23
 Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
 Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
 Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
 Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	December 13
Breakfast with Santa/Rosary Society	
Bake Sale	
Monday	December 14
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Tuesday	December 15
2:00-6:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Wednesday	December 16
1:00-6:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
2:45 PM, MC	Children's Choir
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:00 PM, SC	Home & School
6:30 PM, SC	Religious Education, Grades 1-10
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
Thursday	December 17
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Friday	December 18
Saturday	December 19
Sunday	December 20
2:00 PM, MC	Penance (Non-Sacramental)
4:00 PM, MC	Penance (Non-Sacramental)

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16

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

Today's Gospel might seem to provide a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the person who has two coats give to someone who has none. The person who has food should do the same." But remember the Gospel story a while ago: those who gave from their excess were not praised; rather the person who gave from their own need.

Sharing Last weekend: \$12,268 from all four sources. Thanks to each faithful steward. [Not only was it the first Sunday of the month for those who bring envelopes, but more than \$2,900 is given electronically on the 5th of each month.] The yearly total: \$211,404 is but \$2,796 behind the budgeted amount.

Also, \$1,087 was given in envelopes and plate for the school; \$105 for the food shelf; \$78 was in holyday envelopes; \$62 for religious retirement; and \$10 in fuel envelopes. Thanks to each contributor.

Service: Thanks to the 'pew elves'—some folks who have been refinishing the kneelers of the pews in the chapel. The completed ones no longer are eye sores and they are more functional. Thank you.

Thanks to the afternoon receptionists: Colleen, Lu, Carol, Elaine, and Barb. They are the voice and face of hospitality from 1-4 each weekday afternoon. [Nicole works ½ days as she has returned to school.] NEEDED: some subs for the afternoon folks—as they take needed vacations, etc. Please call the parish office.

Belated thanks to the 'stewardship callers' who spent part of one or two evenings attempting to reach every family who did not respond. Thanks to: Richard, Chris [both nights], Connie, Georgeann, Dean, Jason and Karen. We were able to make 400 attempts. Please: if you have not yet returned the 2010 pledge info, do so soon.

Prayer: Daily Rosary, mass, scripture reading... evening prayer.

Children's Stewardship: \$2.00, Thank you! They wrote: helped fold laundry

Annual Catholic Appeal [Annual Services Appeal]. Thanks to all who pledge and gave to that appeal. As noted, the parish receives a 25% rebate on all the money that is collected. It comes in 2 payments—Nov and Mar. We just received a check for \$3,173. Thank you.

Year end giving. Remember that it may be in your best [tax] interest to make a gift to Saint Matthew's by December 31. This is especially true if you have appreciated assets or property. By donating, you'll receive the full market value as a tax benefit; you'll avoid capital gains tax; the church will pay whatever transfer costs are involved. Please call John at 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*Bonnie Faber*
 Dir. Child Care and KLT *Shar LaVelle*
 Bookkeeper *Cindy Hoffman*
 Administrative Assistant *Nicole Johnson*
 Dir. Food Service *Donna Jenniges*
 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