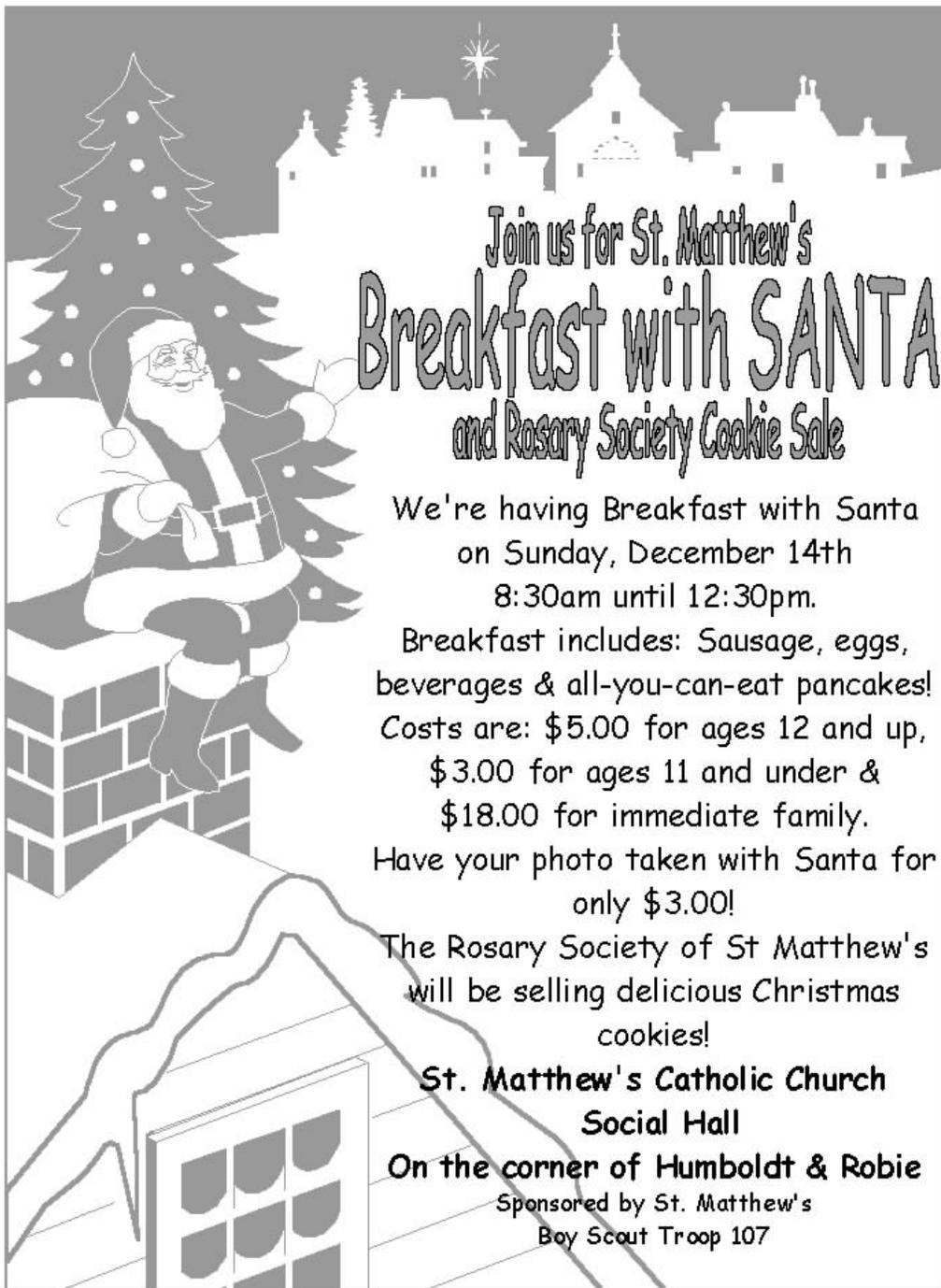


The Community of St. Matthew

*... 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 14th
8:30am until 12:30pm.
Breakfast includes: Sausage, eggs,
beverages & all-you-can-eat pancakes!
Costs are: \$5.00 for ages 12 and up,
\$3.00 for ages 11 and under &
\$18.00 for immediate family.
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:

I take this opportunity to make a report on the progress of renovation undertaken because of the generous gifts and support of parish families for the Saint Matthew Capital Campaign. The Campaign is about to finish phase one.

Saint Matthew Capital Campaign Update:

We are in the final months of the three year campaign.

\$1,173,281 was pledged to the campaign.

\$927,683 has been received.

\$719,510 has been spent.

\$208,173 is in savings.

\$245,600 is yet to be realized from pledges.

\$70,000 is currently in bequests being probated.

The \$719,510 was spent for the following improvements:

Tuckpoint and restoration of the historic school building

Windows and window covering for the historic school building

Elevator in the Church

Handicapped entrance for the church

Handicapped accessible restroom for the church

Architectural services

The committee will meet to discuss the next phase of work when funds are available to undertake significant restoration and/or replacement.

Saint Matthew Social Hall renovation:

\$16,000 has been made available for this work from the last two parish festivals. The following work has been

done:

Kitchen has been painted

Social Hall has been painted

Handicapped accessible fixtures for restrooms

New lighting for Social Hall

Removal of stage and new tile in stage area

New cupboards for Loaves and Fishes,

Rosary Society Funeral Luncheon supplies

New tables: both banquet tables and 60 inch round tables

To be done: New sound system and replacement of side lighting in hall

Representatives of parish boards and societies have made the decisions on the social hall. I am grateful to them for their time and effort. There are pictures in the back of church which show some of the work of Men's Club members in the removal of the old stage. A small portable stage will be purchased and a wireless sound system, thus flexibility in the use of the hall.

The work that has been done in the past two years is remarkable. There is much to yet be done. I am grateful to all who have given their time and funds so generously to these efforts, and with the grace of God and the intercession of Saint Joseph, the builder, we shall continue and we shall complete this work.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian, Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

ROSARY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

The Rosary Society Christmas Bake Sale is this Saturday and Sunday, December 13th and 14th. Items will be sold after Mass in the church on Saturday. On Sunday, the baked goods will be sold in the morning in the Social Hall during the Breakfast with Santa.

JOSEPH'S COAT SAYS THANK YOU

"We are grateful to Boy Scout Troop #107 for arranging the drive to benefit Joseph's Coat and to the entire St. Matthew's community for their generous response to the request for personal care products to benefit the poor in our community. A special thank you to Elaine Goldberg for transporting the gifts."

Liz Lutton, Joseph's Coat

HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE THROUGH NEIGHBORS, INC.

If you are a resident of the S. St. Paul, W. St. Paul, Mendota Heights., Inver Grove Heights or Lilydale areas, you may qualify to seek assistance for your family this Christmas Season. Neighbors, Inc. in S. St. Paul is taking applications for families with children who have need due to unemployment, low income job or illness, or for seniors (over age 55) who do not have family and are living on a very small income. You can apply for assistance at Neighbors, Inc. 8:45-11:00 AM and 1:00-3:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Please call Colleen at 651-455-1508, extension 15, Monday -Friday at Neighbors, Inc. for more information and complete details on this program. Neighbors, Inc. is also seeking families, companies or organizations who would like to Adopt a Family or a Senior. Again, contact Colleen for information.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Thank you to the **Bill Majerus family** for the donation of the beautiful tree which graces our church this Christmas. Thank you to **Brian Osborne** for his help in cutting, transporting and setting up the tree with our maintenance staff.

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION
 December 14 at 2:00 PM and at 4:00 PM
 In Church

WISH LIST TREE ON CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD

The Religious Education Program, St. Matthew’s School, the Child Care Center, and Music Ministry have developed a wish list for the holidays. If you are interested in donating an item, take a “gift tag” off the back bulletin board describing the requested item. The purchased item and tag can be turned in to the Parish Center, and the wish list items will be distributed. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MASS THIS WEDNESDAY

A reminder for evening Religious Education students to gather in church on Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30 pm for Mass. Students are invited to bring a non-perishable food item for the St. Matthew’s Food Shelf and to consider bringing a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Parents, other family members, and the parish community are invited to attend.

ARBY’S SBARRO NIGHT

St. Matthew’s School receives 20% of the sales made on the third Thursday of every month between the hours of 4-8:00 PM to customers who say they’re from St. Matthews. This Thursday, December 18 is our day!!

CHILD CARE CENTER WINTER UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in our “Winter Collection” fundraiser. You will receive a phone call when the items have arrived. We are currently looking for donations of blank computer paper, children’s books (especially board books), children’s videos, books on tape, and winter gear for little people. Items can be dropped off in the Parish Center or the Child Care Center. Please let us know if you need a tax letter for the gift. Wooden Toys and Puzzles will be at the Oakdale Mall this weekend—if you make a purchase mention our code **mn256** and they will give a portion back to the Center. The last day to order from the website for pre-Christmas delivery is Thursday, December 18. Thank you for your support.

CAKE PLATES FROM FR. STEVE’S 35TH JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Please pick up loaned cake plates in the Parish Center by December 20.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS SEASON CELEBRATIONS

We invite you to make a donation in memory of someone, in honor of someone, or you can make an anonymous donation. Forms are available in the back of church; donations are due December 19. Names and intentions will be published in the December 28 bulletin.

DECK THE HALLS! OF CHURCH FOLLOWING 10:30 AM MASS ON 12/21

We will begin hanging banners, drapes, wreathes, and setting-up creches for Christmas. If you can help, call Dana at 651-310-0830. Thank you.

**THIS WEEK AT
 SAINT MATTHEW**

Sunday 8:30 –12:30 Social Hall	December 14 Santa Breakfast Rosary Society Bake Sale
2:00 PM, MC	Communal Reconciliation
4:00 PM, MC	Communal Reconciliation
Monday 3:00 PM, SH 6:45 PM, XC	December 15 Loaves and Fishes Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday 3:00 PM, SH 7:00 PM, MC	December 16 Loaves and Fishes School Christmas Program
Wednesday 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, MC	December 17 St. Mary’s Clinic Loaves and Fishes Religious Educ Mass
Thursday 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 4-8:00 PM 5:00 PM, MC 7:00 PM, MC	December 18 St. Mary’s Clinic Loaves and Fishes Arby’s Sbarro Night Youth Choir Adult Choir
Friday Deadline	December 19 Sanctuary Flower Order forms are due in the Parish Center
Saturday 4:00 PM, CH	December 20 Private Reconciliation
Sunday 11:30 AM, MC	December 21 Decorate the church for Christmas

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

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday collection from December 7:

Envelope and Plate offering:	\$9153.54
Children and Youth Envelopes:	\$ 3.10
School Fund Envelopes:	\$ 803.00
Holy Day	\$ 340.00
Religious Retirement	\$2689.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 14	8:00	Ed Maher Barbara Barnard
	10:30	Juli Hafiz Parishioners.
Monday, December 15		Gerald Allers
Tuesday, December 16		Josephine Cooper
Wednesday, Dec 17		Shirley Capistrant
Thursday, December 18		Justin Arland
Friday, December 19		
Saturday, December 20		Leonard Voto Edward Peterson Anna Lothenbach
Sunday, December 21	8:00	Living & Deceased Members of St. Matt's Catholic Aid Gerald Allers
	10:30	Parishioners

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 14, 2003

Sunday, December 14	Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18
Monday, December 15:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday, December 16:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
Wed., December 17:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Thursday, December 18:	Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Friday, December 19:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Saturday, December 20:	Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday, December 21:	Mic 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The Annual West Side Community Blood Drive will be on Sunday, December 28th from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM at the Neighborhood House-El Rio Vista. Call Gilbert at 651-789-2544 for an appointment. Saint Matthew's volunteer blood drive callers will also be making calls from the list of donors from St. Matthew's. Please give the "Gift of Life" this holiday season!

PARISH DIRECTORY

Saint Matthew Church Office.....651-224-9793
Web site: st-matts.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor..... *Father Stephen Adrian*
Priest in Residence *Father Marty Warren*
Deacon..... *Rev. John Murphy*
Dir. Education & Formation.....*Beth Behnke*
Dir. Music & Liturgy *Dana McCarthy*
Dir. Child Care.....*Maureen Gitlin*
Business Administrator *Debra Lindstedt*
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
Child Care Center..... 651-224-1450
Liturgy and Music Voicemail..... 651-310-0830
Prayerline Receiver..... 651-222-3622 or 651-224-2903-

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

Kathy Goldenstein	Linda Sellars
Marty Olson	Jeff Gilberg
Paul Kempe	Suzanne Clarke
John Finnegan	Tim Jack
Doug Kennedy	Becky Montgomery
John Sekevitch	

Committee Chairs

Finance.....Peter Grayson
Education AdvisoryMichele Edwards
Liturgy