

The Community of St. Matthew



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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

The Christmas celebration draws very near. As you make your Christmas season plans, please make sure that you give participation in Christmas Worship a place of priority. The Season means nothing without the mystery of Christ at its center. Family worship allows us to remind each other how important this mystery is in our lives and the life of our families.

Please welcome to join you for worship. Often people who have been away from the church for a while need the encouragement of an invitation to return to their practice of the faith. We welcome all worshippers, no questions asked.

Your truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Advent Communal Reconciliation
Sunday, December 16, 2:00 & 4:00 pm

Individual Reconciliation
Tuesday, December 18, 7:15 am
Wednesday, December 19, 7:00 pm
Thursday, December 20, 4:00 pm
Friday, December 21, 7:00 pm
Saturday, December 22, 4:00 pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Saturday, December 22, 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 23, 8:00 & 10:30 am

Feast of Christmas
Vigil Mass, Monday, December 24, 4:00 pm
Midnight Mass
11:30 pm Carols
Midnight Mass
Mass at Dawn, Tuesday, December 25, 8:00 am
Mass of Christmas Day, December 25, 10:30 am

Feast of the Holy Family
Saturday, December 29, 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 30, 8:00 & 10:30 am

New Year
Tuesday, January 1, 10:00 am

Feast of Epiphany
Saturday January 5, 5:00 pm
Sunday, January 6, 8:00 & 10:30 am

THANK YOU!

Thank you from St. Matt's Rosary Society/CCW for helping us raise slightly over \$2,000.00 at our bake sale and raffle Dec. 8 & 9. Thank you Marion Wolters for Donating the quilt, Fr. Steve Adrian for donating the crèche, everyone who donated the scrumptious baked goods and hand-made craft items, the workers who helped price and sell, and everyone who purchased items. Have a blessed Holiday Season.

SCRIP UPDATE

Wal-Mart / Sam's gift cards in \$25 or \$100 denominations Ticketmaster in \$50 denominations are now available from Scrip.

COFFEE SUNDAY

Coffee Hour after both Sunday masses is being served by the Suzanne and Ed Steinhauer family – Thanks. All are welcome to stop by for a hot cup of coffee, good things to eat and conversation in the Social Hall. Treats are always welcome and volunteers are needed to staff future coffee hours too. Call John @ 651-221-0871 to sign up.

LECTOR WORKBOOKS

Those of you who signed up to receive Lector Workbooks can pick them in the sacristy.

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Do you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a Catholic or in learning more about the Catholic faith? It may be a member of your own family, a relative or a neighbor who is not presently a member of the Catholic Church. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please call the parish office 651-224-9793.

CAN YOU HELP A NEIGHBOR?

St. Matthew's team needs help delivering Meals on Wheels. An hour of your time, once a month, could make life easier for a shut-in. Please consider helping! Call Jan at 651-457-4766.

ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS!

We are looking for instruments to play for our Christmas liturgies. The psalms tell us to make a joyful noise "with timbrel and harp." If you play the timbrel or harp, or violin or trumpet or guitar or.....please call Bonnie Faber, Director of Music and Liturgy, at the Parish Center 651-224-9793.

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS

ST. MATTHEW'S BOY SCOUT TROOP 107 WREATH SALE AND SANTA BREAKFAST

Troop 107 would like to thank all who supported the Christmas Wreath Sale and the Santa Breakfast. Approximately \$9400.00 in wreaths were sold. The money earned from this fundraiser pays for all campouts and events that the Scouts attend. The Santa Breakfast also was a great success. The money earned from the breakfast pays for the Scouts annual registration fees and funds Troop expenses. Thank you everyone for your continued support of Troop 107. A special thanks to Santa for taking the time to have his photo taken with the young children and some young adults at heart. A special thank you to the Rosary Society for their support in working with us every year to make this day special and successful.

ARBY'S/S'BARRO NIGHT

Join St. Matthew's School families for an evening of good food and lively conversation on Thursday, December 20 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.

VIKINGS VS. BEARS

Join the Men's Club in the social Hall on Monday, December 17, for the game! Doors open at 7:00 PM. \$5.00 per person, includes refreshments.

PARTNER WITH THE SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME AS A TUTOR

The East Side Learning Center is seeking volunteer tutors who will make a difference in a child's life by tutoring in reading for as little as one hour a week. The volunteer tutors work one-on-one with children from the East Side of St. Paul in grades K-4 who are below grade level in reading. Tutoring sessions are held Mon.-Thurs. from 3:00-5:00 PM. There are a few openings earlier in the afternoon. Sessions are also held some weekday mornings at Trinity Catholic School from 8:30-9:30 AM. Volunteers receive an initial orientation and on-going training, and are provided with lesson plans and materials for each session. **You do not need to have a teaching background to tutor.** A commitment of at least one hour per week for 10 weeks is requested. For more information contact Sister Jana Roberts at 651-793-7331.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

A BIG thank you to all the parishioners who contributed to this years Giving Tree. Because of your generosity we were able to help over 40 families and provide gifts for over 140 children!

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	December 16
Monday 3:00 PM, SH 6:45 PM, XC	December 17 Loaves and Fishes Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday 3:00 PM, SH 7:00 PM, SC	December 18 Loaves and Fishes Boy Scout Committee Mtg.
Wednesday 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 5:00 PM, MC 6:00 PM, SC 6:30 PM, SC 7:00 PM, MC	December 19 St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes HummDingers Cub Scout Committee Mtg. Religious Education, Grades 1-10 Adult Choir
Thursday 3:00 PM, SH 4:00-8:00 PM	December 20 Loaves and Fishes Arby's/S'barro Night
Friday 9:00 AM, MC	December 21 School Mass
Saturday	December 22
Sunday	December 23

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

Each of us has his or her role to play in the coming of the Kingdom of god. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me? Do I have a role in opening the eyes of the blind? in unstopping the ears of the deaf? in helping the lame leap like a deer? in aiding the speechless to sing for joy? in strengthening the weak hands? in firming up weak knees? in bringing gladness to the wilderness and dry land? in bringing joy to the desert?

Prayer: During this late Advent time, spending time with the “O antiphons” will help discover the fullness of the Lord through titles that were given to him. Also, the infancy narrative [first two chapters of Matthew or Luke—this is the year of Matthew] will help us live fully into the season of the Incarnation.

Service: Thank you to all those who prepared our worship space for the season of Advent [and will work equally hard to transform it to “Christmas”]. So often this ministry is forgotten because it is “behind-the-scenes” and because the assembly has been so well served in the past they/we expect it. Thank you!

Sharing Thank you so much to all those who exercised financial stewardship this past weekend [envelope; plate; electronic]: \$13,175 was given. That is the greatest weekly amount this year; it is about \$3,500 greater than the budget [though some weeks recently have been almost \$3,500 less]. Equal thanks for the holiday contributions: \$951.

Other donations which will be given to the appropriate ministries: school fund: \$332; food for hungry: \$108; Romanian orphans: \$75; fuel collection: \$55; Campaign for Human Development: \$25.

Additional thanks for all the “gifting” that was done. On Saturday, Dec. 15, all the gifts were used by the confirmation students as they provided goods and food to the 40+ families—enrolled in our parish programs—who needed this kind of assistance.

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
 Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
 Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
 Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
 Thursday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
 Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
 Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-5
 Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

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.....*Shar LaVelle*
 Dir. KLT Kids*Cherri Trapp*
 Dir. Marketing & Development.....*Maureen Gitlin*
 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
 Liturgy and Music Voicemail.....651-310-0830
 Prayerline 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*

Becky Montgomery	Nicole Johnson
Connie Aligada	Sister Joanna Illg
Jason Delmont	Mark Thomford
Tony Palmer	Sheila Brunelle
Michael Linn	Stephen Adrian