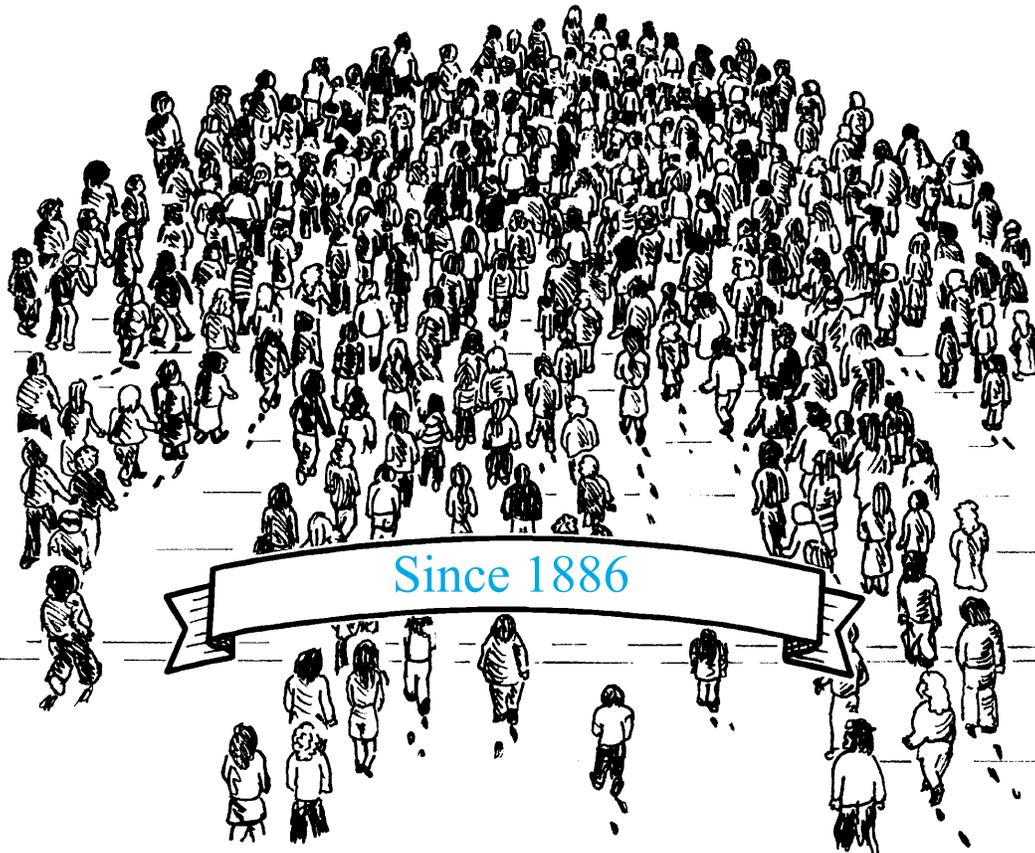


The Community of St. Matthew



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

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

Late Advent and Christmas Schedule

Advent Communal Reconciliation

Sunday, December 17th
2:00 & 4:00 pm

Individual Reconciliation

Tuesday, December 19th, 7:15 am
Wednesday, December 20th, 6 pm
Thursday, December 21st, 4 pm
Friday, December 22nd, 7 pm
Saturday, December 23rd, 4 pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23rd, 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 24th, 8:00 & 10:30 am

Feast of Christmas

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

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30th, 5 pm
Sunday, December 31st, 8:00 and 10:30 am

New Year

Monday, January 1st, 10:00 am

Feast of Epiphany

Saturday, January 6th, 5:00 pm
Sunday, January 7th, 8:00 and 10:30 am

PARISH EVENTS

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER

Morning prayer will be offered at 9:00 AM in the Main Church on Saturday, Dec. 23rd. This 15 minute liturgy is part of ancient tradition and is rich in the sung prayer of the church. Gift your family with this quiet & prayerful start to a busy weekend of Christmas preparations & celebration.

COFFEE HOUR THIS WEEKEND

Coffee Hour after both Sunday masses is being served by Michele and Mike Bauer – thanks. All are welcome to stop by for a hot cup of coffee, good things to eat and fellowship. Treats are welcome and helpers are needed to staff future coffee hours too. Contact John at 651-221-0871

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.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO FITS THIS PICTURE?"

I'm a senior citizen with diabetes. In the last three years, I've lost both legs, lost my spouse and then I lost my home. My children live on the coast. It's just me and my God now. My only contact with the world and St. Matthew's parish is through the few people who bring me communion. They have become a big part of my family and help me with my small personal needs. They listen, laugh, cry, and are just there for me during my time of need. Bob Redding visits this parishioner. Bob asks, "Do you have an extra hour or two a week where you could do the same for someone like my friend? Think and pray about it, then contact Sr. Anne Becker at the parish office."

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions may be found on the monthly calendar available in the back of church.

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS



ABRY'S/S'BARRO NIGHT

Join friends and family at Arby's this Thursday night, December 21, after you place your order tell them you are from St. Matthew's and the school will receive 20% of your total. St. Matthew's School Arby's Night is every third Thursday from September through May. Hope to see you there.

SANTA BREAKFAST AND BAKE SALE

Troop 107 would like to thank the Men's Club, the Rosary Society and Santa for helping to make the Santa Breakfast and Bake Sale a huge success. We are grateful for their continued support of this yearly event. Thanks also to those who came and enjoyed over 250 breakfasts and 60 pictures with Santa.

ROSARY SOCIETY BAKE SALE RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who donated or purchased items at our bake sale. The variety of donations was the very best ever. We really appreciated that so many of you packaged your donations so attractively that all we did was price it. The net amount that we made was \$1,340—just about enough to cover the check we wrote to purchase the two new windows in the Parish Center Chapel. We also gave items to the SistersCare program, to the sisters at the Parish Center, and to the Men's Club for their December meeting and auction. Thanks to the Boy Scouts for allowing us to be at their Breakfast with Santa event and for setting up and taking down our tables. The Breakfast with Santa and Bake Sale involves a lot of parishioners working together to put on a fun activity that helps raise funds for two organizations. Thanks everyone.

END OF THE YEAR GIVING

It is not too late to make plans for end of the year gifts, especially as they might influence tax burdens. This is very beneficial if you have appreciated investments, etc. You may donate the stocks, bonds, etc., and receive the full benefit for a tax-deductible contribution, pay no capital gains tax, and the church will pay the transfer fees, etc. Please contact John Riehle in the parish office for assistance.

NEW PARISH ENVELOPES

New parish envelopes will begin in January [they should arrive in the mail in the next week. Each parish family is receiving envelopes; there are ways to use the regular Sunday envelopes even if there is no financial contribution given. Father Steve—in his letter—described the hoped for outcome: that everyone—after a reflection on the week past—will bring a properly marked envelope and put it in the collection basket.

After Christmas there will be 2007 boxes of envelopes for children and youth; each envelope will have a place to mark time in prayer, talent, and treasure. All are encouraged to take and use a box.

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday 2:00 PM, MC	December 17 Communal Reconciliation
4:00 PM, MC	Communal Reconciliation
4:00 PM	Pack 107 Meeting
Monday 3:00 PM, SH 6:45 PM, XC	December 18 Loaves and Fishes Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday 3:00 PM, SH	December 19 Loaves and Fishes
Wednesday 9:00 AM, MC 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, SC	December 20 School Mass St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes Religious Education Class, Grades 1-10 Religious Education Advent Prayer Service
7:00 PM, MC	
Thursday 3:00 PM, SH 4:00-8:00 PM 5:00 PM, MC 6:30 PM, SC 6:30 PM, SH	December 21 Loaves and Fishes Arby's/S'Barro Night Youth Choir Girl Scout Troop 163 Men's Club Border Battle Football Game Adult Choir
7:00 PM, MC	
Friday	December 22
Saturday 5:00 PM, MC	December 23 Mass—Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday 8:00 AM, MC 10:30 AM, MC 4:00 PM, MC	December 24 Mass—Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass—Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve Mass

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

STEWARDSHIP

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the person who has two coats give to the person who has none. Whoever has food should do the same."

Prayer: This week presents the challenge [and the rewards?] of the prayer of silence. Amid the hustle and bustle of the season, are we able and willing to carve a bit out of each day for contemplation and reflection? Might we be better prepared for Christmas if we did?

Service: Individuals, families and groups offer food and drink for a time of sharing after Masses [5:00PM monthly; 8:00 & 10:30 weekly]. This ministry can work wonders for our parish community. More hands and bodies will be put to good service. If you, your family, or your group are interested and capable of helping, please call the parish office.

Sharing: Last weekend: \$9336 was given in envelopes, the plate and electronically. Thank you. \$220,008 has been given this fiscal year; that is about 17% behind the budgeted amount. Additionally: \$4477 was given for the retired religious [thanks for your presentation, Sister Virginia]; \$1046 was given in holyday envelopes; \$1000 was received in memorials; \$2000 was given for the Romanian orphans. Thanks, too, for all the presents that were brought for the gifting program. Many families will benefit for such charity.

Annual renewal process is being completed. Thanks to each person who returned a pledge form, or talked with a caller. Another thank you to each of the callers. Slightly more than 350 households pledged almost \$8,000 per Sunday; 100 households did not pledge [though many do contribute—about \$350 per Sunday]. Attempts were made to contact the final 400 households; no personal contacts were made. [They have given an average of about \$750 per Sunday.] Your response form is still welcome.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 17, 2006

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
 Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
 Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
 Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
 Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
 Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
 Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
 Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

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
 Child Care Center 651-224-1450
 Liturgy and Music Voicemail..... 651-310-0830

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

Committee Chairs

Finance.....
 Education Advisory Richard Dunn