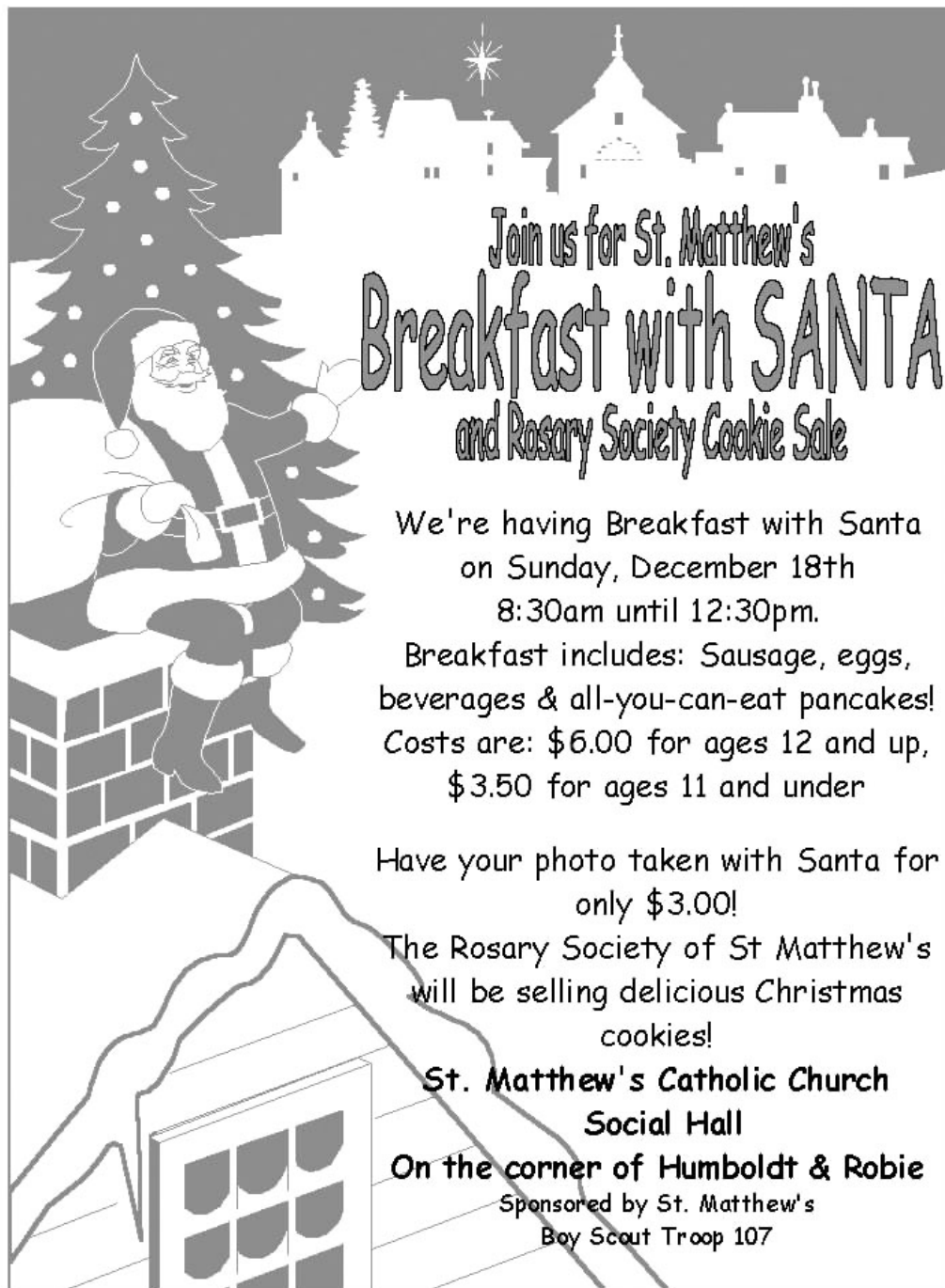


# The Community of St. Matthew



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

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

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

I offer for your reflection this message from Daniel Conway.

In his 1999 apostolic letter, *The Church in America*, Pope John Paul II offered some insight into "the personal style of Jesus Christ" that could be very helpful to us as we celebrate Christmas.

The late pope said, "Conversion demands a genuine identification with the personal style of Jesus Christ, who leads us to simplicity, poverty, responsibility for others, and the renunciation of our own advantage, so that like Him and not trusting in human means, we may draw from the strength of the Holy Spirit and of the Word all the power of the Gospel, remaining open above all to those who are furthest away and excluded." (CA 28)

The first Christmas was radically simple. Weary travelers find shelter in a stable. A child is born, and his parents are greeted by poor shepherds (outcasts living on the margins of their society) and angels who proclaim "Peace on earth. Good will toward all." Family, hospitality and solidarity with all human-kind are the profoundly simple themes that surround the Lord's birth.

Poverty, not excessive spending, would be characteristic of a Christ-like Christmas. We understandably think of poverty as a purely negative thing. No one wants to be poor – to have less than we need to live a full and productive life. And yet, the Lord constantly challenges His disciples to give up everything in order to live a richer and more rewarding life with Him. We Christians believe that a freely-chosen poverty (as opposed to the kind of poverty that is imposed on us by forces beyond our control) is liberating. It frees us from stress and anxiety. It helps us to "let go" of our dependence on possessions, status and inappropriate relationships. Like the infant Jesus, we let go

absolutely and entrust ourselves to God's provident care. We become poor in spirit, stewards of all God's material and spiritual gifts.

Christmas should surely focus our attention on the needs of others. We would become more responsible for the well-being of family members, neighbors and all those who are "furthest away and excluded." Christmas should not be an occasion for selfishness. It is, first and foremost, a time for thinking about others. Generosity is the spirit of Christmas. Self-giving and solidarity with others are the twin antidotes to depression, loneliness and the soul sickness that affects so many at this "jolly" time of year. Charles Dickens reminds us in the annual retelling of his "A Christmas Carol," self-centeredness makes us miserable; self-giving sets us free.

Christmas would be radically different if we could find a way to bury the calculus of self-interest that we carry with us all year long. "What's in it for me?" is not a question for Christmas – or for any other time of year. Holiday advertising encourages us to covet things. The insatiable desire for more is the very opposite of a Christmas virtue. A true Christmas would focus our attention outward – away from ourselves – towards those who truly need and deserve our attention. Instead of asking, "What's in it for me?" the Christmas question is always "What can I do for you – this Christmas season and throughout the New Year?"

It won't be easy to celebrate this kind of Christmas. It goes against the grain of modern inclinations and experience. And yet, one of the greatest gifts of this season is to see things differently – with the eyes of Christ who was simple, poor, responsible for others, and unconcerned about His own advantage.

Let's have a joyous Christmas and a generous, stress-free New Year!

## PARISH EVENTS

### 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.

### NEWS FROM ST. MATTHEW'S CHILD CARE

We had a very busy week celebrating Christmas. On Tuesday we had our annual Holiday Open House complete with cookie decorating and a visit from Santa Claus. All of the families had a wonderful time! On Wednesday many student leaders from Humboldt High School came to play with the children and brought each a special gift. Finally on Thursday we packed up the whole center and went to St. Thomas Academy for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual party with the Seniors from St. Thomas and Cretin-Derham Hall. The children met Winnie-the-Pooh and other characters and received a gift from Santa. As busy as we are we invite all parishioners to come and see the Center. To schedule a tour please call Dimary at 651-224-1450.

EDUCATION AND  
FAITH FORMATION NEWS



**ST. MATTHEW'S FIFTH GRADE SERVICE PROJECT**

The fifth grade class is busy collecting personal hygiene products to distribute to the guests of Loaves and Fishes at the end of January. If you would like to make a contribution to their effort, please bring personal hygiene products to church and place in the box marked at the front door. The box will be in church through the month of January. Thank you for supporting the fifth graders service project.

**Liturgy Schedule**

**Communal Reconciliation**  
December 18, 2 & 4 pm

**Individual Confessions**  
Monday, December 19, 4 pm  
Tuesday, December 20; 7:15 am  
Wednesday, December 21; 7 pm  
Thursday, December 22, 4 pm  
Friday, December 23, 7 pm

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

**New Year Eve and Day Masses**  
Saturday, December 31, 5 pm  
Sunday, January 1, 8:00 & 10:30 am

**Feast of Epiphany**  
Saturday, January 7, 5 pm  
Sunday, January 8, 8:00 & 10:30 am

You are invited to join our community in the celebration of the Christmas Feast and Season. Perhaps it has been some time since you have been to church. Not to worry. Come and join us at Saint Matthew's. No questions asked. You are invited to follow Jesus with us, and you will never be excluded because of your race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or any of those things often used to rate, rank or exclude people.

**YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS**

End of year contributions will be accepted through Friday, December 30, 2005. The parish center will be open until 5:00 PM on Friday, December 30, if you would like to drop off your contribution.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Giving Tree. Confirmation students coordinated the sorting and distributing of these gifts to over 40 families in our community. Through the generous support of the South Robert Street Association and the St. Matthew's Men's Club each family received gift certificates to help provide a holiday meal. Once again this year the Community of St. Matthew's opened their hearts to bring Christmas joy to those in need in our community. Thank you.

THIS WEEK AT  
SAINT MATTHEW

<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 AM-12:00 PM SH  2:00 PM, MC  4:00 PM, MC	<b>December 18</b> Breakfast with Santa and Rosary Society Bake Sale Communal Reconciliation Service Communal Reconciliation Service
<b>Monday</b> 3:00 PM, SH 4:00 PM, CH 6:45 PM, XC	<b>December 19</b> Loaves and Fishes Individual Confession Boy Scout Meeting
<b>Tuesday</b> 7:15 AM, CH 3:00 PM, SH	<b>December 20</b> Individual Confession Loaves and Fishes
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 7:00 PM, CH	<b>December 21</b> St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes Individual Confession
<b>Thursday</b> 3:00 PM, SH 4:00 PM, CH 7:00 PM, MC	<b>December 22</b> Loaves and Fishes Individual Confession Adult Choir
<b>Friday</b> <b>Parish Center Closed</b> 11:00 AM, SH  7:00 PM, CH	<b>December 23</b> Youth Choir Christmas Party Individual Confession
<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 PM, MC 11:30 PM, MC	<b>December 24</b> Christmas Vigil Mass Carols before Midnight Mass
<b>Sunday</b> 12:00 AM, MC 8:00 AM, MC 10:30 AM, MC	<b>December 25</b> Midnight Mass Mass at Dawn Mass of Christmas Day

**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 II:	\$14,070.57
Needed per week:	\$9,457.00
Plate & envelope to date:	\$191,475.00
Need to date:	<u>\$226,968.00</u>
	-\$26,036.00
Youth & Children's Envelopes	\$5.50
Holy Day	\$1,112.25

*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 18	8:00 AM Catherine Blaeser, Charles Otte, Robert & Phyllis Mathis
	10:30 AM Parishioners
Monday, December 19	Parishioners
Tuesday, December 20	Sam Mike
Wednesday, December 21	Ray Mosberger, Charles Halvorsen
Thursday, December 22	Marie Wiler
Friday, December 23	
Saturday, December 24	4:30 PM Helen Clemens, Phillip Gilberg, Bernard Bukowski, George Lackner
Sunday, December 25	12:00 AM Tim Jack, Deceased members of Fee, Lang & Devlin Families
	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 18, 2005

Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Rom 16:25-27/ Lk 1:26-38
Monday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/ Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday:	Is 7:10-14/ Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/ Lk 1:39-45
Thursday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/ Lk 1:46-56
Friday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/ Lk 1:57-66
Saturday:	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Lk 1:67-79
Next Sunday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
	Midnight: Is 9:1-6/ Ti 2:11-14/ Lk 2:1-14
	Dawn: Is 62:11-12/ Ti 3:4-7/ Lk 2:15-20
	Day: Is 52:7-10/ Heb 1:1-6/ Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

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*