

The Community of St. Matthew



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



Advent and Christmas 2009

Advent Communal Forgiveness

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

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Eucharist

Saturday, December 19, 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 20, 8:00 and 10:30 am

Christmas Eucharist

Vigil Mass, Thursday, December 24, 4:00 pm
Choral Music, Thursday, December 24, 11:30 pm
Midnight Mass, 12:00 Midnight
Mass at Dawn, Friday, December 25, 8:00 am
Mass of Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, 10:30 am

Feast of Holy Family Eucharist

Saturday, December 26, 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 27, 8:00 & 10:30 am

New Year Day Eucharist

Friday, January 1, 10:00 am

Epiphany Eucharist

Saturday, January 2, 5:00 pm
Sunday, January 3, 8:00 & 10:30 am



PARISH EVENTS

COFFEE SUNDAY

All are invited to the Social Hall after both Sunday masses for community time, coffee, treats and a chance to support the Catholic Order of Foresters, a fraternal association that meets at the St. Matthews Parish Center quarterly. The COF has supported St. Matt's in the past by providing scholarships to our students, purchasing a window in the parish center and donating for many years to the fish fries. Thanks to all who supported C4aC's from recent weeks. 11/15/09 for SSND \$ 189.00; 11/22/09 - for St. Matt's Religious Education program \$122.00; 11/29/09 for Neighborhood House Food shelf \$80.00; 12/06/09 Casa Guadalupana \$92.00

A THANK YOU FROM THE ROSARY SOCIETY

What a Fantastic Bake Sale! Have you ever seen such a variety of treats? So many different kinds of sweet and yeast breads, thousands of cookies, four or five kinds of snack mixes, 23 pounds of fruitcake—and all sold, more than 16 pounds of caramels—and all sold, candy and fudge, hand drawn and colored gift bags, cakes and cupcakes. Thanks to all you bakers, candy and snack makers, and crafters. Thank you everyone who supported us by purchasing these Christmas treats. It was great to hear people say that they don't do any Christmas baking because they buy at our sale. You helped fill three grocery bags with Treats for Our Troops and gave us cash donations to help with shipping. Our sales were \$1,733 which will do a lot toward funding future projects. The Rosary Society wishes you a blessed and Merry Christmas.

EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS

HOW IMMIGRATION FUELS OUR NATION

Entrepreneurship: Immigrant-owned businesses create jobs, often revitalizing urban and rural areas that receive new immigrants. Studies show that immigrants often possess entrepreneurial skills that they use to establish businesses and are more likely to be self-employed and own small businesses than people born in the U.S. Immigrant entrepreneurs established up to a quarter of all the Silicon Valley firms, generating more than \$19.5 billion in sales and nearly 73,000 jobs in 2000. The number of immigrant women business owners, most of whom are from Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia, has increased nearly 468 percent since 1980. *Immigration Sunday, January 3, 2010*

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DEC. 20, 2009--4:00 P.M. St. Stephens Lutheran Church, 1575 Charlton Ave, W. St. Paul. Admission Free. 100% of proceeds of free will offering will benefit the Neighbors, Inc Food Shelf. Everyone Welcome!

ROMANIAN ICONS FOR SALE

Looking for a unique Christmas present? How about an original icon hand-painted by Romanian artists. The gold leaf bordered pictures of Mary with Jesus make an attractive, one of a kind gift that will become a family keepsake. The sale of these icons support the our Parish's work with children in Romania. The icons are \$15 for one, \$25 for two. If interested, please call Becky Montgomery/Dave Haley at 651-292-051.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 20, 2009

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
 Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
 Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
 Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
 Friday: 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
 Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
 Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	December 20
2:00 PM, MC	Penance (Non-Sacramental)
4:00 PM, MC	Penance (Non-Sacramental)
Monday	December 21
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
4:00 PM, CH	Confessions
6:45 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday	December 22
7:30 AM, CH	Confessions
9:00 AM, PC	Alums & Friends
2:00-6:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
7:00 PM, CH	Confessions
Wednesday	December 23
1:00-6:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
4:00 PM, CH	Confessions
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
Thursday	December 24
4:00 PM, MC	Christmas Eve Mass
Friday	December 25
12:00 AM, MC	Midnight Mass
8:00 AM, MC	Christmas Mass at Dawn
10:30 AM, MC	Mass of Christmas Day
Saturday	December 26
Sunday	December 27
Feast of the Holy Family	

Abbreviations:

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

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." - Lk 1:

41, 42, 45

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

STEWARDSHIP

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

Sharing \$7,751 last weekend. Thank you. Yearly total: \$219,155 is \$1,243 ahead of last year, same amount of weekends.

A litany of many other donations: Religious Retirement: \$4,353; Christmas: \$3,081; other holydays: \$365; school: \$97; food shelf: \$25; Peter's Pence: \$20; fuel: \$10; mission Sunday: \$7; and CCHD: \$7. Thanks for each of these generous gifts—they will be put into the correct 'buckets.'

Service: Thanks to John DelVecchio—and his family—have labored for the past years to make 'coffee Sunday' a consistent opportunity for community building. The past 18 months 'Coffee for a cause' has been instituted to invite others to host for the Sunday morning experience.

As we continue with Sunday morning gatherings, any interested group is invited to host and use that as an opportunity to tell the story of a particular ministry. The pastoral council members are leading this new effort. Thanks to them.

Prayer: Daily rosary... prayers for those suffering in the cold... spiritual reading.

2010 Calendars will be available beginning next weekend. Thank you to Jim and Jayne Bradshaw and their business for supplying these for us. There should be one for each household.

2010 Children/Youth envelopes will be available next weekend and into January. This is a good method to begin stewardship—putting aside a little each week, and bringing the envelope to Church. Children and youth are encouraged to list their time in prayer and their service, too.

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
 Liturgy and Music Voicemail.....651-310-0830
 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