

The Community of St. Matthew



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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

The closer one comes to the central truths of faith, the more difficult it is to talk about them – words fail to convey the simplicity and magnificence of God.

Christmas 2007 brings us another opportunity to enter into that mystery of God's love, so deep and profound, that God chooses to take human form to live among us. God's yearning for union with the creature is so intense that God cannot stay away from us and is unwilling to do anything else than become one of us.

It is in that mystery of God's love that you and I become sons and daughters of God and sisters and brothers of Jesus.

This gift endows us with our ultimate dignity and value.

From the moment of that birth in a cave of Bethlehem the world is invited to look into the very eyes of God – for Jesus is the human face of God. Never again can the human face be any less than the sacrament of the Human Face of God – six billion human faces today reflect the very face of God, for the human lives of all six billion people are touched and transformed by the human nature of Jesus.

My job, your job, the job of the follower and disciple of Jesus is to remind all men and women of their great value and dignity, to remind all that they are the very image of God.

So, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, welcoming the immigrant, caring for the sick, valuing human work, protecting the vulnerable, teaching the inquiring mind, resisting violence and being a peacemaker – all of this is simply a living out of the truth of Christmas.

So, when someone asks you, "Why do you feed and clothe and shelter and welcome and care for and protect and teach and value people – especially those most vulnerable?" Simply answer, "It is because of Christmas".

May the mystery of this Feast and Season fill you and all those with whom you share life.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

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

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.

LECTOR WORKBOOKS

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

SCRIP UPDATE

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Parishes offices will be closed on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25. We will be back in the office Wednesday, December 26, at 8:00 AM.

EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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.

CALENDARS FOR THE NEW YEAR

2008 Calendars These will be available at the entrances next weekend. These are provided to parish households at no cost to us, through the courtesy of Bradshaw Funeral and Cremation Services. We thank them.

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Three of the appliances in the kitchen--the convection oven, the dishwasher and the 10 burner stove--need to be replaced. Men's Club members have secured very good prices for the equipment and they are soliciting some underwriting from local civic and service groups. Additionally, each church and organization that has a serving team here will be asked to fundraise "at home." Saint Matthew's has a serving team; we will have a 2nd collection for this cause in mid-January. More about this in a future bulletin.

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
 Monday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
 Tuesday: 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
 Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
 Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Friday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
 Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	December 23
Monday	December 24
Tuesday	December 25
Parish Offices Closed	
Wednesday	December 26
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
Thursday	December 27
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Friday	December 28
Saturday	December 29
Sunday	December 30

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

Joseph, when he discovered that Mary was pregnant with a child, resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But, obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the Child Jesus and His mother, Mary. May God grant that each of us would be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit—regardless of the direction.

Sharing: Last weekend, through the three usual methods of giving, \$8272 was contributed to the “regular Sunday” account. Additionally, there was \$2728 given in holydays [most of it for Christmas]; \$4193 was given for the retirement fund for religious; \$2733 was given after the penance services for our service to the poor and hungry; \$210 was given for seasonal flowers and \$80 for the giving tree. So many causes; so much generosity. Thanks to each person who responded from the pocket of stewardship and/ or from the pocket of charity.

End of the year giving If you wish to make a gift for tax, or other reasons, John Riehle can give any assistance you may need. Gifts and donations will be received and credited for 2007 until 9:00AM on Wednesday, January 2. Gifts will be credited for the year listed on the envelope, unless they are specially marked.

Thanks in advance for generous giving; thank you for observing these few “regulations.”

2008 giving: Please remember that new pledges should begin at the beginning of January. For continuing electronic givers, any changes will be done by the parish through the bank; for new electronic givers, the funds transfers will occur on the day of the month you requested.

2008 Youth and children’s envelopes These will be available in church next weekend. Please take a box of envelopes and put your name next to the number that corresponds to that on the box. The office intends to print quarterly totals [by number, not name].

Regular giving is a good habit; that habit can start when children are quite young.

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
Joyce Osborne	Stephen Adrian