

The Community of St. Matthew



“**F**or today in the city of David
a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.
And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant
wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

- Lk 2:11-12

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

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

It is Christmas, and once again we contemplate the scene of God's entrance into the world as an infant child, sheltered in a cave, soon to be feared and hunted by those who believe the world is theirs.

God comes among us as a stranger, as one weak and without. God pitches his tent in our space -- and does not ask permission. God holes up among us -- and can crowd us a bit, make us a bit uncomfortable, compromise our "business as usual" attitudes.

We are so used to the world being ours, so used to shaping and forming it according to our designs and hopes and dreams and aspirations. Am I able to share this world with someone "new", someone "strange", someone "unexpected", someone like me and yet suspiciously "different"?

Is it the lot of human beings to become satisfied with what is, and fight to keep it? Is it the lot of human beings to scapegoat those who are different, who crowd our comfort zone, who challenge our "world view"?

The immigrant, stranger, alien; the woman or man who is different; the one who thinks differently -- those whom we call "them" -- all of "them", and you and I, are wrapped up in the flesh and blood of this newborn child of Bethlehem.

Christmas is the time to realize that the world is not mine, and I and my experience is not the ultimate norm for world order. Christmas is that moment when "business as usual" gets turned on its head and I learn to see things from the downside up.

A Christmas Prayer

*Sheltering God,
You were born in flight,
Your parents anxious and given no rest.
The manner of Your birth calls me to
Open-heartedness and sensitivity to the strangers in our midst.
Help me not to flee Your challenge.
The violence of the present time teaches me fear of the stranger,
Reluctant to reach out to those who are different.
Grace me this day as I seek
To see You in the faces of those uprooted,
Weary, as they seek refuge and peace.
Amen.*

May the grace and peace and wonder of this Feast and Season fill your hearts.

Merry Christmas.



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

THANK YOU FROM BOY SCOUT TROOP 107

Boy Scout Troop 107 would like to thank all those who purchased Christmas Wreaths during our annual Christmas Wreath Sale. Scouts sold over \$9000.00 worth of wreaths which collectively added almost \$4000.00 to the Scout boy accounts. Thank you! Thank you! The Scouts would also like to wish everyone at St. Matthew's a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

CYCLE B" ST. JOSEPH'S MISSALS

Missals are available for purchase at the back of church. Our new liturgical year begins November 27th and this year's Cycle B will be significantly different from previous Cycle B missals you may have on your shelf at home. This year Christmas & New Years fall on Sunday. Purchase price is \$5.00.

NEW PARISH HYMN BOOKS

Two generous parish members have provided \$3,000 for the purchase of new hymnals. The cost of 300 new congregational hymnals, 25 choir hymnals and instrumental accompaniment is \$5,000. If you wish to make a gift toward this purchase please place your gift in the collection basket or mail it to the church office and mark the envelope "hymnals."

THANK YOU ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL

The student council at St. John's in Savage held a toy drive and graciously offered to help out our giving tree with what they had collected. Students, parents, teachers and Mrs. Behnke brought five van loads of toys to add to our giving tree. Their generosity helped us serve the 43 families who shopped for gifts for their families last Saturday. Thank you St. John the Baptist School!! Thanks to all the confirmation students who gave up a part of the weekend to sort and distribute the gifts. Thanks to Maureen Gitlin, Mooreen Sunday, Nicole Johnson and Kathy Goldenstein, the adult leaders that helped coordinate the event.

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS



THANK YOU FROM CHILD CARE

The Child Care Center received a very generous donation of hats and mittens for the children enrolled. We would like to thank "The Mitten Makers" for this wonderful treat. We are always looking for donations of art materials, paper products and new or gently used clothing to make our Center even better. To donate or tour the Center please call Dimary at 651-224-1450.

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

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.

DECEMBER 500 CARD CLUB WINNERS

1st place — 3580—Delores Gubash and Theresa Gubash, 2nd place—3050—Charlotte St. Martin and Gayle Stelter

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	December 25
	Merry Christmas
8:00 AM, MC	Mass at Dawn
10:30 AM, MC	Mass of Christmas Day
Monday	December 26
	Parish Center, Child Care, KLT Closed
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Tuesday	December 27
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Wednesday	December 28
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Thursday	December 29
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Friday	December 30
Saturday	December 31
9:00 AM, PC	Centering Prayer
Sunday	January 1
	Happy New Year

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 18:	\$10,672.21
Needed per week:	\$9,457.00
Plate & envelope to date:	\$216,217.00
Need to date:	<u>\$236,425.00</u>
	-\$20,208.00
Youth & Children's Envelopes	\$1.00
Holy Day	\$343.00
School Fund	\$417.00
Penance Service Collection	\$2,657.42

Stewardship is a way of life—a graciousness by which I return to God a portion of what God has lavished. sj. adrian

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 25	8:00 AM Joseph Blaeser Robert J. Stickler, Sr. Gerald Husman 10:30 AM Harry Borowicz Bernice & Louis DeNardo Paul Reichenbach Parishioners
Monday, December 26	Parishioners
Tuesday, December 27	Bernard Bukowski (Ann'y)
Wednesday, December 28	James Fee
Thursday, December 29	Mageretha Devlin (Ann'y) Earl Cafilisch
Friday, December 30	
Saturday, December 31	George Bohrer (Ann'y) Frank Jack, Anthony Chariton
Sunday, January 1	8:00 AM Agnes DeFoe John Meyers, Living & deceased members of the Rosary Society 10:30 AM Carol Munkwitz Parishioners

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 25, 2005

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
Monday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/ Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/ Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday:	1 Jn 1:5-2:2/ Mt 2:13-18
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/ Lk 2:22-35
Friday:	Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/ Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/ Jn 1:1-18
Next Sunday:	Nm 6:22-27/ Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21

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*