

The Community of St. Matthew



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

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And because he had been warned in a dream,
he departed for the region of Galilee. He
went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that
what had been spoken through the prophets might
be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazorean."

—Mt 2:22b-23 NAB

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Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

The temperatures dip below freezing, skies are clear and bright, sun streams into my office and I hear the wind as it rattles the windows. Early mornings, as I come to work, I gaze at the cloudless sky and see the myriad stars fill the heavens.

Images of Christmas past fill my mind's eye.

In the mind of this child, the Christmas tree Dad would bring home from the Men's Club Tree Lot seemed to fill the whole living room – wide and deep and tall as the ceiling. Colored lights sometimes bubbled, sometimes twinkled, sometime just burned bright. Tinsel stands carefully distributed made the tree shimmer in the darkness of early evening.

On an end table near by stood the wooden stable, roof covered in rolled cotton – old from many years' use. The floor is covered with straw – old too from many years. Carefully placed statues of mother and child, Joseph and shepherds, sheep and angles filled the stable. A soft blue light glowed from the roof of the stable, giving it a quiet, middle of the night feel.

On occasion, during the Christmas season I would sneak downstairs when all the family slept and turn on the tree and light the stable. I would stretch out on the living room floor on my stomach and gaze at the lights and dream and wonder and

imagine – it was often the “best part” of Christmas – the challenge to dream.

As I grew older I came to realize that the Feast and Season truly is about dreaming, dreaming the dream of God, the plan of God, the promise of God. After all, Christmas is for those who believe. The promise of a new heaven and a new earth is wrapped up in that infant child of Bethlehem. The promise for me and for all people is found tight in that divine child.

The angels say to the shepherds and me and you – “We come with news of great joy for you and all the world”.

Sometimes we adults become so cynical, so rational, so mad – we loose the power to dream, to see what is hidden within, to see beyond the tip of our collective noses, to see what is “already” and “still not yet”. Chesterton said “human beings go mad, not because they loose their rationality, but because their rationality is all they have left.”

Let's dream, dream of the promise of God made real and fleshy in an infant child, a dream awaiting its fulfillment in my life and yours, a dream that can still invade the flesh of our lives.

Merry Christmas



Stephen Adrian

PARISH EVENTS

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

End of year contributions will be accepted through Tuesday, January 4, 2005. The parish center will be open until 5:00 PM on January 4, if you would like to drop off your contribution. Please specify that these contributions are for 2004.

DO YOU HAVE YOUR NEW CYCLE A ST. JOSEPH MISSAL?

They may be purchased in the back of church before and after weekend masses. The cost is \$5.00.

CHRISTMAS SEASON 2004-2005

MASS SCHEDULE

New Year, 2005

December 31, 5:00 PM

January 1, 10:00 AM

*There is no 8:00 AM Mass or 5:00 PM Mass

Feast of the Epiphany

January 2, 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

FATHER ADRIAN RECEIVES JOHN A. RYAN AWARD

On Friday, December 17, Father Steve spoke at graduate commencement ceremonies at the University of St. Thomas. At that ceremony Father Steve received the John A. Ryan Award for outstanding leadership and contributions to social justice. The award is named for Monsignor John A. Ryan, an 1898 St. Paul Seminary graduate who taught moral theology there from 1902 to 1915, when he joined the faculty of Catholic University in Washington, D.C. He was an influential writer and served as an adviser to Franklin D. Roosevelt during his presidency. Father Steve was honored for his work with here at St. Matthew's, as well as his work with Loaves and Fishes, St. Mary's Clinic, St. Paul Ecumenical Alliance of Congregations, and Neighborhood Development Alliance. Congratulations, Father!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Join the students, faculty, staff and families of St. Matthew's School on Sunday, January 23 as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week with a lunch in the social hall beginning after the 10:30 AM Mass. Then take the opportunity to tour our classrooms and attend the 7th Grade play "Joseph and His Brothers" at 1:15 PM in the gym. Come celebrate almost 120 years of Catholic education on the West Side!!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Thursday, December 30 at 5:00 PM until Monday, January 3 at 9:00 AM. The answering service will be taking phone calls and will be in contact with Father Steve

SCRIP BLITZ WINNERS

Thank you to everyone who helped us meet and exceed our goal during the Holiday SCRIP Blitz. We are proud to announce the winners of the SCRIP Blitz raffle: Helen Schneider, Ann Newman, Deb Lindstedt, Bernice Shipley, Linda Sellars, Larry Sachi, Frank Rodriguez, Sue Nowaczewski, Kathi Graham, Barb Strom, Lupe Lopez, Karen Manor, Mooreen Sunday, Dave Haley, Daryl Johnson, Adrian Armendariz, Caryn Benish, Dana Demarest, Ray Burrows, and Barbara Benedict. Remember, SCRIP is available year round and is the fundraiser that costs you NOTHING! Scrip is available after all masses this weekend and next weekend. It will be available at school again after the holiday vacation on Monday, January 3.

ST. BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Eighth graders and their parents are invited to St. Bernard's Open House on Tuesday, January 4 at 7:00 PM.

A DIFFERENT NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

The Benedictine Center at St. Paul's Monastery in Maplewood invites you to "Crossing the Threshold: A Journey Into the New Year." This fourth annual retreat begins New Year's Eve at 7:00 PM and concludes at 10:30 AM on New Year's Day. Lead by Carol Rennie, OSB and Mary Martin, the retreat is a time to reflect on God's abiding presence in one's life. Limited space. Please call 651-777-7251.

**THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW**

Sunday	December 26
Monday	December 27
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:45 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday	December 28
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Wednesday	December 29
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Thursday	December 30
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Friday	December 31
Parish Office, KLT Kids and Child Care Closed	
5:00 PM, MC	Mass
Saturday	January 1
10:00 AM, MC	Mass
Sunday	January 2
8:00 AM, MC	Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany
10:30 AM, MC	Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany

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

STEWARDSHIP

DONATIONS FOR THE WEEK OF

Sunday Envelopes and Plate	\$7365.22
Youth and Children's Envelopes	\$3.65
School Fund	\$145.00
Holy Day	\$294.00
Religious Retirement Fund	\$150.00
Penance Service	\$2436.68

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 26	8:00 AM Phyllis Exley Agnes Allers Bertha & John Einberger 10:30 AM Parishioners Bernard Bukowski (Ann'y)
Monday, December 27	Parishioners
Tuesday, December 28	James Fee
Wednesday, December 29	Margaretha Devlin (Anny)
Thursday, December 30	George Bohrer
Friday, December 31	5:00 PM Anthony Chariton
Saturday, January 1	10:00 AM Alice Marthaler Earl Cafilisch (Ann'y) Bernard Ferber
Sunday, January 2	8:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Rosary Society 10:30 AM Parishioners Agnes DeFoe

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 26, 2004

Sunday:	Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 / Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/ Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Monday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/ Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:5-2:2/ Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/ Lk 2:22-35
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:12-17/ Lk 2:36-40
Friday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/ Jn 1:1-18
Saturday:	Nm 6:22-27/ Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21
Next Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/ Mt 2:1-12

PARISH DIRECTORY

Saint Matthew Church Office..... 651-224-9793
Web site: st-matts.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor.....	Father Stephen Adrian
Priest in Residence	Father Marty Warren
Deacon.....	Rev. John Murphy
Dir. Education & Formation.....	Beth Behnke
Dir. Music & Liturgy	Dana McCarthy
Dir. Child Care	Dimary Rosado
Dir. Marketing & Development.....	Maureen Gitlin
Business Administrator	Debra Lindstedt
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
Prayerline Receiver.....	651-222-3622 or 651-224-2903-

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

Linda Sellars	Becky Montgomery
Marty Olson	John Sekevitch
Suzanne Clarke	Doug Kennedy
Larry Sachi	Connie Aligada

Committee Chairs

Finance.....	Linda Sellars
Education Advisory	Richard Dunn
Liturgy	