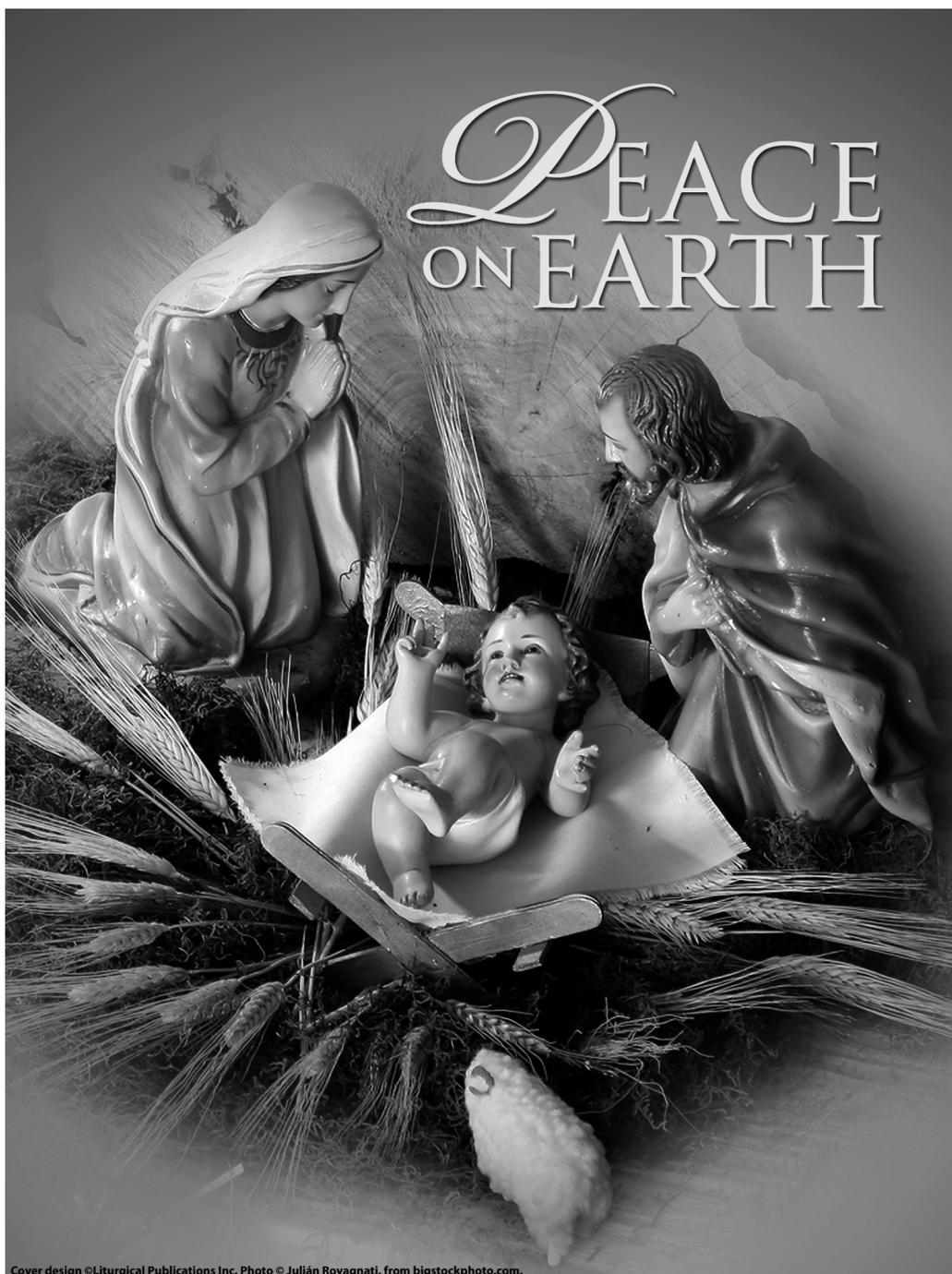


The Community of St. Matthew

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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

May the peace and joy of the Christmas Feast be yours!

I live in a world of free wills. Often those free wills are like rubber balls bouncing off the wall. The best one can do at times is to duck so as not to get hit by those flying free wills.

Often what I laughingly call my life is anything but predictable and orderly.

Part of growing up is to recognize the imperfections in life and to make allowances for them. Children see most things as black and white, good and bad, right and wrong. Children are angry because everything isn't "fair". Children are distressed because they can't always have it "their way".

The fact is that most of life is a both/and condition and almost nothing is simple.

This mixed condition is the condition into which God comes among us. The mystery of God's love in Jesus is that He subjects Himself to the vagaries of human life and accepts the limitations of the human condition.

The Christmas story as found in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew is a story of saints and sinners; good news and bad news; beginnings and endings; life and death; tyrants and gracious folk. It is a story of fear and joy – "Do not be afraid, we bring you tiding of great joy."

Holidays like Christmas are as a magnifying glass; people are just like they normally are, except more so. Sometimes people have exaggerated expectations for what the holiday and Feast should be. They have an image of a Norman Rockwell Christmas – a Christmas that fails to materialize – and then there is sadness, disappointment and let down.

The very mystery we celebrate is the mystery of unfinished, betwixt and between, on again off again human life – a life into which God inserts Himself. Not a perfect life, not a magical life, not an ideal life and certainly not a Norman Rockwell life.

And in the process of embracing the fullness of human existence all things are reconciled with God in the flesh of Jesus Christ.

So, cut each other a bit of slack; see and embrace life as it is; and know that God is present and that because of what happened so many years ago in Bethlehem the human condition and the divine are forever one.

May you know more deeply this Christmas the presence of God in your life.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

COFFEE SUNDAY

Coffee hours after both masses are being hosted by Alyssa & Yuri Wallace and Anna & Alexei DelVecchio, with help from their parents, in support of the European Adoption Service. All Are welcome to the Social Hall.



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.

So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. - Lk 2:16-17

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

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS

HOW IMMIGRATION FUELS OUR NATION

American Ideals: Immigrants tend to come from cultures that value supportive family structures, respect for the elderly, and a strong work ethic. As in the past, immigrants often come seeking religious freedom and become active and vibrant members of faith communities in the U.S. The United States offers protection to people who fear religious, ethnic, political, and other persecution. Immigrants fleeing persecution value and promote democratic ideals and humanitarianism.
Immigration Sunday, January 3, 2010

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

A HUGE Thank you our music makers: St. Matt's Adult Choir and The Children's Choir and their parents! A special Thank you to Kathy Goldenstein and Jan Casillas for their help with the Children's Choir, and another special Thank you to Jill Kilzer for keeping it all going! Thank you to St. Matt's Liturgy Committee and everyone who helped put together our lovely Christmas environment!

OUTREACH WITH THE SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

The East Side Learning Center (ESLC) is in need of volunteer tutors to provide one-on-one tutoring in reading to students in grades K-4. Volunteers receive initial orientation and on-going training! They are provided with lesson plans and materials for each tutoring session. Volunteers are only required to tutor one hour a week from January to May. Last semester, members from St. Matt's church help tutor 23 children! The ESLC is located at Johnson, Bruce Vento, North End, and St. Matthew's Elementary. Tutoring takes place in the mornings 9-10 am Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at St. Matt's. Training for new volunteers will take place on January 7th (10-noon), January 13th (4-6pm), and January 14th (10-noon) at Johnson Elementary. For more information, contact Ben Stiemsma at (651) 793-7331 or ben.stiemsma@spps.org.



THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	December 27
Monday 3:00 PM, SH 6:45 PM, XC	December 28 Loaves and Fishes Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday 2:00-6:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 7:00 PM, XC	December 29 St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes Boy Scout Troop Committee Mtg.
Wednesday 1:00-6:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 6:00 PM, SC 7:00 PM, MC	December 30 St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes Religious Education Teacher's Workshop Adult Choir
Thursday 3:00 PM, SH 5:00 PM, MC	December 31 Loaves and Fishes Mass
Friday Mary, Mother of God 10:00 AM, MC	January 1 Mass
Saturday	January 2
Sunday Epiphany of the Lord	January 3

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

Rejoice! The Word became flesh and dwells among us! Jesus took the form of a human—and gave all back to God. How do we measure up? We're not asked to return 100%; just 10%. How are we doing?

Next weekend's giving. Please use extra care next week both in choosing the envelope that reflects your intention and in dating your check. The money counters will do their best to decipher your intentions [whether the donation is to be credited in 2009 or 2010].

[Bulletin had to be prepared by Friday, 12/18, therefore, no report of time, talent, nor treasure from last weekend.]

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.

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.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 27, 2009
 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
 Monday: 1 Jn 1:5---2:2/Mt 2:13-18
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
 Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
 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
 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
 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