

The Community of St. Matthew

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



*... **b**ut not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.*

— Lk 2:45-47

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

A few weeks ago I read a piece by Father Michael O'Connell, the Rector of the Basilica of Saint Mary. Michael asked this question:

What if our minds were wired to include the following question preceding all our human choices —What impact will this choice have on the well being of children?

I am persuaded that this question could well be an anchor for moral decision making B decisions made personally, within a family, a parish community, a neighborhood, a city, a state, a nation.

The measure of a moral and civil society might well be summed up in a willingness to make all decisions stand under the light of this question.

The questions we wrestle with are serious economic, social, environmental and international questions. We have difficult questions to wrestle with in education, health care, economic and social development, the globalization of life and work, and so much more.

We face decisions about nation building and terrorism, questions of war and peace, questions of life and death.

What impact will the choices we make have on the well being of children?

The Christmas Season is that richly spiritual and poignant time when we remember the birth of a child. We remember that in God=s plan for the salvation of all it is as a child that God comes to live with us. This Child brings tiding of great joy, this Child is the Prince of Peace, this Child is the Light of Revelation to all nations. This Child is God Among Us.

Do we love children, all children? Are we willing to live, work, sacrifice, suffer and even die for children?

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

BOY SCOUT TROOP 107

The Boy Scouts would like to thank everyone who came down to the Breakfast with Santa. Special thanks to the cooks: Sue Nowak and Tim Nowak; to the Kempe Family who made Santaland possible and of course Santa and his elves.

Boy Scouts will be collecting aluminum cans on the weekend of January 3 and 4 before and after masses.

ROSARY SOCIETY/CCW BAKE SALE RESULTS

The Rosary Society/CCW heartily thanks all the Christmas cookie bakers and bread and candy makers who so generously donated their yummy delights to our Annual Christmas Bake Sale. Obviously we have many, many gourmet cooks, both Rosary members and other parishioners. Thanks to the Boy Scouts for allowing us to be part of their Breakfast with Santa program. Thank you to everyone who made purchases and to those who made cash donations. Because of your generosity we raised \$1,608—that's \$556 more than last year. This sum will allow the Rosary Society/CCW to fund several projects. May all of you have a blessed Christmas.

CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ST. MATTHEW'S

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 27, 5:00 PM
 Sunday, December 28, 8:00 & 10:30 AM

NEW YEAR HOLY DAY

Wednesday, December 31, 5:00 PM
 Thursday, January 1, 10:30 AM

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 3, 5:00 PM
 Sunday, January 4, 8:00 & 10:30 AM

ALL SCOUT SLIDING PARTY

All scouting families are invited to the All Scout Sliding Party on Saturday, January 3, at Marthaler Park from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Hope to see you all there.

WISH LIST THANK YOU

The religious education program, St. Matthew's School, the Child Care and the Music Ministry/Liturgy program would like to thank everyone who so generously donated items from our wish list. Wish list items can still be turned in to the Parish Center, please include the tag from the bulletin board so we can distribute the items to the correct program. Thank you again for your generosity.

DECEMBER 500 CARD CLUB WINNERS

1st Place: 2650—Gayle Stelter and Charlotte Brady
 2nd Place: 2570—Marge Lorch and Trudy Ewald

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS—NINTH GRADE PLACEMENT TEST

All Catholic high schools in the archdiocese will be giving the placement test for incoming ninth graders on Saturday, January 17, 2004. Please contact the school of your choice to find out times and if there is a fee for taking the test.

MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Attend a Marriage Encounter the weekend of January 9-11, February 13-15 or February 20-22. Weekends are held on beautiful Rogers Lake, 6 minutes from the Mall of America. Visit www.marriages.org for a listing of month retreats or call 651-454-3238.

**THIS WEEK AT
 SAINT MATTHEW**

Sunday	December 28
Monday	December 29
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:45 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday	December 30
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Wednesday	December 31
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
5:00 PM, MC	New Year's Mass
Thursday	January 1
10:30 AM, MC	New Year's Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Friday	January 2
Saturday	January 3
Sunday	January 4

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday collection from December 14

Envelope and Plate offering:	\$8,071.14
Children and Youth Envelopes:	\$ 4.55
School Fund Envelopes:	\$ 157.00
Holy Day	\$ 842.02

Stewardship numbers for Sunday, December 21 were not available before we went to press. They will be published in the bulletin next week. Thank you.

End of year contributions will be accepted through December 31. The parish center will be open until 5:00 PM on December 31, if you would like to drop it off.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 28	8:00 AM James Fee Ed Maher
	10:30 AM Parishioners
Monday, December 29	Parishioners
Tuesday, December 30	Parishioners
Wednesday, Dec. 31	6:45 AM Parishioners
	4:30 PM Anthony Chariton
Thursday, January 1	10:30 AM James Dieter Gerald Allers
Friday, January 2	Lorraine Mike
Saturday, January 3	Arthur Geis
Sunday, January 4	8:00 AM Agnes DeFoe Anthony Lothenbach
	10:30 AM Parishioners

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 28, 2003

Sunday:	Sir 3:2-7, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52
Monday:	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Thursday:	Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Friday:	1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:29--3:6; Jn 1:29-34
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.....	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
Extended Day.....	651-228-1535
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

Kathy Goldenstein	Linda Sellars
Marty Olson	Jeff Gilberg
Paul Kempe	Suzanne Clarke
John Finnegan	Tim Jack
Doug Kennedy	Becky Montgomery
John Sekevitch	

Committee Chairs

Finance.....	Peter Grayson
Education Advisory	Michele Edwards
Liturgy	