

The Community of St. Matthew



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

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

On an early October evening 1975 I walked into the bar of a hotel located on Chicago's Michigan Avenue. I was in Chicago attending a community organizing meeting and was encouraged to look up a young Chicago organizer, Greg Pierce.

Over a few beers we spent a few hours talking about strategy for community and neighborhood organizing a la Saul Alinsky. I liked Greg. He was bright, exciting, enthusiastic, insightful, eager, competent, thoughtful, reflective and creative. Beneath all of that he was truly a man of deep faith conviction. I encouraged him to move to the Twin Cities and do organizing here. He insisted that Chicago was home and he would never leave his Cubs.

Today Greg is the president and co-publisher of Acta Publications, the author or editor of ten books, the former head of the National Center for the Laity and founder of Business Executives for Economic Justice.

In his new book The Mass Is Never Ended he reminds us "if we get the dismissal rite right, we get everything right".

The Eucharist is both a destination and a launching pad – the Eucharist gathers and hurls forth – the Eucharist is celebrated at the altar and lived in the world.

Often the real message is saved for the final words of a conversation; often in those words the previous words make sense. "Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord" – the final words which embody the meaning of and reason for all the other words.

Life is about living – celebrating life makes sense only when I have a life I live, and live it deeply. Celebrating the mystery of

Christ makes sense only when that mystery is alive and growing in my daily life.

The martyr saint Archbishop Oscar Romero reminded us: "How beautiful will be the day when all the baptized understand that their work, their job is a priestly work. That just as I celebrate Mass at this altar, so each carpenter celebrates Mass at his workbench, and each metalworker, each professional, each doctor with a scalpel, each chef at the stove, a market woman at her stand is performing priestly office! Cab drivers, listen to this message: You are a priest at the wheel, my friend, if you work with honesty, consecrating that taxi of yours to God, bearing a message of peace and love to those riding with you."

I see the enthusiastic committed eager eyes of a bright young Greg Pierce sitting before me in that Chicago bar and realize that what drove him and lifted him up is that he really did and does believe that the work he does is holy and that he is living the common priesthood of the baptized in all he does.

A New Year resolution for all of us might be found in our baptismal life, our common priesthood in Jesus – a resolution to get the dismissal rite right, so that everything can be right.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

DECEMBER 500 CARD CLUB WINNERS

1st Place-3830: Arlene Kempe and Jeanne St. Martin. 2nd Place-3430: Ann Marthaler and Sister Joanna Illg.

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.

SCRIP UPDATE

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

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.

LECTOR WORKBOOKS

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

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS

PARISH BULLETINS

These also are available to us and to all families at no cost to the parish. [They are funded by the advertisers on the back.] Liturgical Press does the solicitation, and the printing and delivery of the bulletins each week. Please patronize the businesses who advertise. If you would like to advertise, please call the number on the back [bottom] of the bulletin.

FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING

The usual day would have been the day following Christmas; it has been changed to this Wednesday, January 2, at 5:00PM in the parish center.

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.

Community of St. Matthew
Parish Pastoral Council
Agenda
January 3, 2008

Facilitator: Sheila Brunelle

6:45 - 7:00 pm

Reflection

7:00 - 9:00 pm

- I. Public Comment Period
- II. Consensus on Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Strategic Planning -- Long Range Goals - Each group to have their goals reorganized as per outline. -- Bob Burke
 - Spirituality/Worship Goals
 - Outreach to the Needy Goals
 - Education Goals
- V. Committee/Task Force Reports/Updates
 - Rectory Update
 - By-laws - discussion of proposed changes
 - Ministry Fair
 - Discernment Committee - Timeline and Assignment of council persons to schedule and meet with major groups in parish
 - Response to parish audit
 - Welcoming Report
 - Other (Liturgy, Education, Finance)
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Meeting Evaluation
- VIII. Items for next meeting (Thursday February 7, 2008)
- IX. Adjournment

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	December 30
Monday	December 31
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
No School, No Child Care, No KLT	
Tuesday	January 1
10:00 AM, MC	Mass
No School, No Child Care, No KLT	
Parish Offices Closed, No Loaves and Fishes	
Wednesday	January 2
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
5:00 PM, PC	Finance Council
6:30 PM, SC	Religious Education, Teacher's Workshop
No Religious Ed.	
Thursday	January 3
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:45 PM, PC	Parish Council Mtg.
Friday	January 4
7:15 AM-5:15 PM, CH	Eucharistic Adoration
Saturday	January 5
Sunday	January 6

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

Joseph's obedience to God was not a one-time thing. His attention to the angel's warning kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod and his attention led to the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazorean. Fidelity to God's will assures the best use of talents by every steward.

Sharing [For publishing deadlines, this bulletin needed to be prepared before last weekend. Therefore, there are no figures to present; they will be done next week.]

Service: Volunteered at Roosevelt school and Neighborhood House; took six hours of training for leadership in healing ministry; baked cookies for the bake sale; served at Loaves and Fishes; was a money counter; participated in communion ministry to the homebound; cared for a disabled spouse; spent an afternoon visiting someone who was lonely.

Prayer: Reading the envelopes, the daily-ness of praying is evident: morning prayers, mealtime prayers, rosary, scripture reading, centering prayer, evening prayer.

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 are available in church today. 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.

WEEKLY READINGS

- Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
- Monday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
- Tuesday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
- Thursday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Jn 1:29-34
- Friday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42
- Saturday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51
- 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.....*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

Education Advisory Richard Dunn