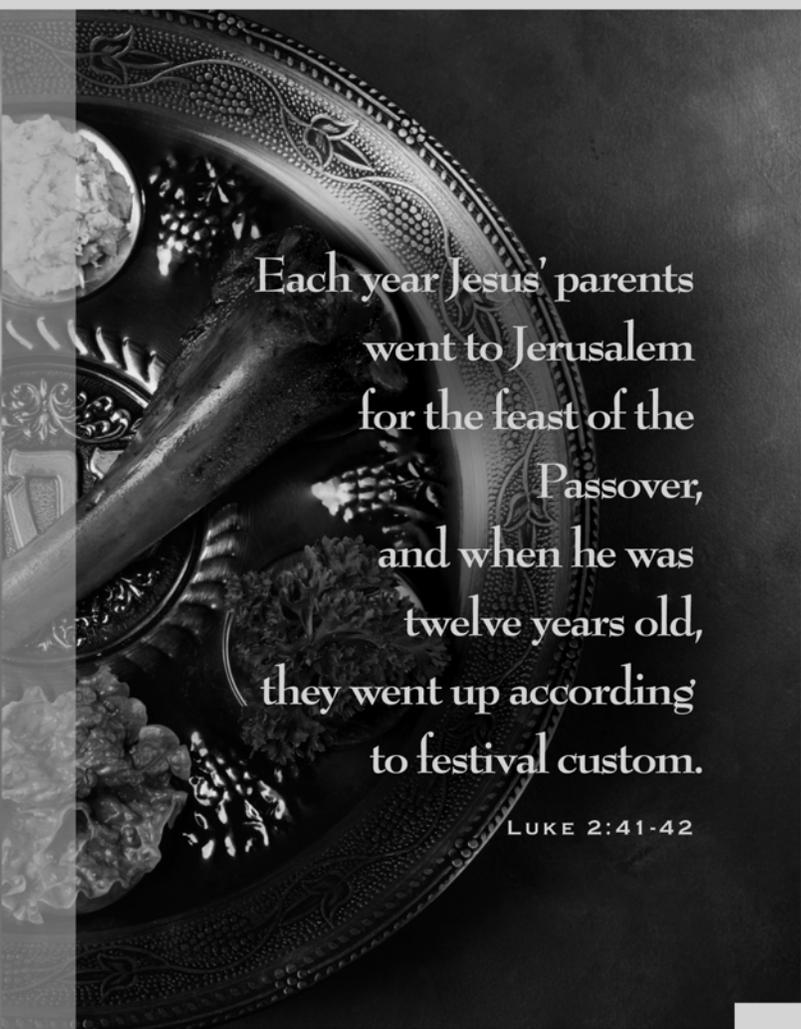


The Community of St. Matthew

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

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Each year Jesus' parents
went to Jerusalem
for the feast of the
Passover,
and when he was
twelve years old,
they went up according
to festival custom.

LUKE 2:41-42

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are times to take stock, to reflect on life and to make resolutions – “mid-course corrections”. The unexamined life is a life which drifts; a life lived without intentionality, and a life going in circles.

I suggest that a new beginning in life can be organized around the three classical aspects of Christian life: **Prayer, Service and Sharing.**

Prayer: Do I find time each day to turn to the Lord in prayer? Do I use the Scriptures in my prayer? Do I allow time to be quiet and let the Lord speak to me? Do I give a priority to Sunday worship? Do I prepare for Sunday liturgy – come on time, come recollected and ready to participate? How will I pray this year?

Service: Do I find time each week to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy? Do I put into action my love of God by service to my neighbor? Do I try to see in the stranger a brother or sister? Do I use my special talents or skills to enrich the lives of others? How will I serve my neighbor his year?

Sharing: How do I look upon my financial resources? Do I see money as an opportunity to exercise some choices? Do I see my money as a means to do good for myself, my family and others? Am I pre-occupied and worried about money? Do I allow money matters to consume me? Do I handle money wisely? Do I live within my means? Do I consciously choose to give a

portion of my money to the Lord – the works of my parish and other charitable enterprises?

The great measure of my values is found in how I use my time and how I use my money. Is there place for God in the use of my time? Is there place for my neighbor in how I use my talents? Is there a generosity of spirit in how I use my money?

Beginning now, January 1st, there is a new church envelope. The envelope allows you to make a financial contribution; it also allows you to indicate the gift of time in prayer during the past week, and the gift of time in service.

I invite you to take a few minutes before you come to church on the weekend and reflect on your past week. Indicate in the envelope the prayer, service and sharing that were part of your week. Do this each and every week. Then each and every week bring the envelope to church and place it in the offering collection. The collection is the “gathering” of the total stewardship of a congregation – prayer, service and sharing. All of that is my return to the Lord for all that the Lord has given me.

Happy New Year!
Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

COFFEE HOUR THIS WEEKEND

Coffee Hour after both Sunday masses is being served by Andrew Heitzinger and Family as part of his Eagle Project – thanks. All are welcome to stop by for a hot cup of coffee, good things to eat and fellowship. Treats are welcome and helpers are needed to staff future coffee hours too. Contact John at 651-221-0871.

ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

Boy Scout Troop 107 will be collecting aluminum cans for recycling in January. Please save your cans from your holiday festivities and plan to bring them down on the weekend of January 6 and 7. Thanks for your continued support of our Boy Scouts.

Christmas Season Mass Schedule

New Year

Monday, January 1st, 10:00 am

Feast of Epiphany

Saturday, January 6th, 5:00 pm
Sunday, January 7th, 8:00 and 10:30

WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN

Our Christmas Environment went up in record time -- in large part due to necessity, "preparation" & organized determination by several people on and before Christmas Eve. Thank you to Larry & Shirley, Nicole, Sheila & Tom, Ann, Mary Ann, Joanne, Pat & Rich, Barb and Ginny. **NEXT WEEK** we hope to set another record for taking Christmas out of the church immediately following our 10:30 mass celebrating Epiphany. If enough people stay to lend a hand we should be done in less than an hour again this year.

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS



FIRST RECONCILIATION CLASS

Parents and students preparing for First Reconciliation will have class on Tuesday, January 2. Class will begin at 6:30 PM in the chapel. Please complete the first four chapters before class.

ENVELOPES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Envelopes will be available next weekend. Please sign the list, take and use a box. There is a place to list your time in prayer, your methods of service, and your sharing.

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LIFELINE SCREENING

Tests that can help save your life. LifeLine Screening is America's leading provider of quality health screenings. LifeLine Screening will be at St. Matthew's on Monday, January 15 between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM to provide four screenings: Stroke/Carotid Artery, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Peripheral arterial disease and Osteoporosis. Cost for all four screenings is \$139. Pre-registration is required. Call 1-800-324-1851.

HAND IN HAND INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

Hand in Hand International Adoptions will be holding a free orientation and information meeting on Monday, January 8 from 7:00 PM-8:30 PM at the Hamline Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Avenue in St. Paul. At the meeting, we will give you an overview of our agency and its mission, and we will also discuss why these children need homes, the countries the children are from, the adoption process, adoption tax legislation that makes adoption more affordable, and the joys and challenges of international adoption. Please call Hand in Hand at 651-917-0384 to register your attendance in advance. You may also visit our website at www.hihiadopt.org for additional information.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions may be found on the monthly calendar available in the back of church.

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	December 31
Monday	January 1
	Parish Offices Closed
10:00 AM, MC	New Year's Day Mass
Tuesday	January 2
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:30 PM, CH	First Reconciliation Class
Wednesday	January 3
9:00 AM, MC	School Mass
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Thursday	January 4
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
5:00 PM, MC	Youth Choir
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
Friday	January 5
Saturday	January 6
Sunday	January 7

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

[Dec 31] *The first reading today provides a challenging guideline for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?*

[Jan 1] *The Gospel today says that, having found the infant Jesus, the shepherds returned to their work, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.” We, too, have seen and celebrated the mystery of the Word made flesh. Will we follow their example when we return to work tomorrow?*

Prayer: [Please remember that the chapel is open for visits and prayer each weekday from 6AM to 6PM; you might make it a habit.] Melding the feast of Sunday and Monday, in our family life, what new beginnings might we make? As we pray for these beginnings and changes, let’s promise to act as we pray.

Service: Thanks to all those who helped the celebrations of the Advent and Christmas season, especially the “environment” people. There was a lot to put up, change, take down, keep watered, etc. Your ministry helps our prayer. Thank you.

Sharing: Thanks to all those who were able to contribute over the Christmas weekend electronically, by using envelopes, or in the plate. \$9,099 was given in Sunday envelopes and plate for 12/24; \$19,295 was given in envelopes and plate for Christmas. We finished the first half [26 weekends] of the fiscal year about 14% behind the budget.

Remember that January marks the beginning of a new year of pledges and stewardship; thank you to so many who were able to increase their pledge—even slightly—for 2007; thanks for new pledgers; thanks for those who give even though there is no pledge.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 31, 2006

- 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: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/ Jn 1:29-34
- Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42
- Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or
3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

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 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
KLT Kids 651-665-0786
Liturgy and Music Voicemail651-310-0830

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	Larry Sachi
Nicole Johnson	John Sekevitch
Connie Aligada	Sister Joanna Illg
Lucus Ecker	Mark Thomford
Sheila Brunelle	Stephen Adrian

Committee Chairs

Finance.....
Education Advisory Richard Dunn