

The Community of St. Matthew

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



As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:
“Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead
of you; he will prepare your way.
A voice of one crying out in the desert:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’”
- Mk 1:2-3

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

Thursday of this week is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is the patron feast of the United States, and it is a holy day. It is also the 40th anniversary of the close of the Second Vatican Council.

During the fall and early winter of the years 1962-1965 more than 2500 bishops of the Catholic Church gathered in a general council of the Church. This was only the 21st time in the history of the Church that such an event took place -- the last time was the First Vatican Council which was adjourned in 1870 as the Papal States were about to be attacked and captured.

The purpose of the Second Vatican council was to bring a new vitality and energy to the work of the Church. Previous councils had been convoked to address some raging error plaguing the Church -- this time there would be no condemnations, no diatribes, no "anathemas".

Clearly, the reform of the liturgy of the Church is the effect of the Council that was most immediate and universally experienced. The reform was immediate, not gradual; substantive, not peripheral; dramatic, not subtle. New images and language became the catch words of the age -- "The People of God", "The Pilgrim Church", "A Universal Call to Holiness", "The Kingdom of God", "The Church of Jesus Christ". Our Protestant neighbors were no longer "heretics" and their communities were no longer "sects". They were now "our sisters and brothers in faith", "our separated sisters and brothers"; and their communities were now to be called "churches" -- a great departure from previous attitudes.

For the first time in history, leaders of other Christian Churches and leaders of non-Christian religions were invited to observe and comment on all the workings of the Council. In welcoming them, John XXIII calls them his sisters and brothers. John believed that the Church is not the exclusive property of Catholics. He told the observers "You are at home here. This is your house. We are servants and not emperors of the truth."

Very early in the First session of the Council the bishops of the world -- with the prompting of Pope John, Cardinal Suenens and Cardinal Montini (later to become Pope Paul VI) decided that not only would the council address itself to the internal life of the Church -- liturgy, teaching, the role of bishops, priests, religious and laity; the Sacred Scriptures -- but also would for the first time in the history of general councils address the critical issues facing the world. It would also address the Church's partnership with the world in seeking solutions to the agonies and fears of the human family.

Furthermore the Council decided that it would undertake a reflection on the thorny issue of religious freedom. In significant places in the world the Catholic Church had a pride of place before all other religions -- this favorable situation was guaranteed through formal agreements between national governments and the Church. Many bishops feared the loss of this "favored status" and truly held that that such favorable status was appropriate because **only** within the Catholic Church is found the truth of God.

An American Jesuit, John Courtney Murray played a pivotal role in the development of the document on Religious Freedom. For years he had been writing and lecturing on the subject. Under Pope Pius XII his writing had been suppressed and he was told not to pursue his work. The Cardinal of New York brought him to the Council as one of his advisors, and so made it possible for him to contribute deeply to the discussion and final approval of a recognition of the religious liberty of all people and the ultimate freedom of human conscience in the exercise of religious faith -- no matter what the religious belief.

(continued next week)

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian, Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

Mass Schedule
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Wednesday, December 7
7:00 PM
Thursday, December 8
6:45 AM, 9:00 AM, 5:30 PM

ST. MATTHEW'S MEN'S CLUB HOLIDAY AUCTION

On Wednesday December 7, 6:30 pm the Men's Club annual holiday auction will take place in the Social Hall. All the proceeds go to the St. Matthew's Holiday Giving and the School Sisters of Notre Dame Retirement Fund. Donations are needed and pick-up is available. Call Wayne (651-451-9726) or Tim (651-450-4975).

HOSPITALITY SUNDAYS

Stop down in the social hall after masses this Sunday, December 4, for a cup of coffee, a donut and a chance to visit with community members. Everyone is welcome. John Delvecchio has agreed to chair the Hospitality Committee that will coordinate these events, and he is interested in having a committee of people that would enjoy participating in this ministry.

If you would like to participate on the hospitality committee, please call the parish office at 651-224-9793.

Thank you to Jan and Peter Casillas, and Pat and John Sekevitch for volunteering to help with our hospitality in the social hall this past Sunday after masses. If you and your family would like to help in the future, or if you would like to team up with another family or individual, please contact the parish office. We welcome your participation. Again, everyone is welcome. See you after mass!



THANK YOU

Thank you to the members of the Rosary Society/CCW and Adult Choir, who donated breads and bars for the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service. Thank you to the Men's Club for providing beverages.

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS



SCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Holiday season is approaching fast. SCRIP makes great holiday gifts for everyone on your gift giving list. We have recently added Arby's and Bucca di Beppo to our on hand inventory. Special orders and large holiday orders should be placed as soon as possible to guarantee pre-holiday delivery. All proceeds from the SCRIP program go to St. Matthew's School and are used to meet a variety of needs. Happy Shopping!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS THIS WEDNESDAY

There will be religious education class for all students in grades 1-10 this Wednesday, December 7th. Classes will meet at 6:30 PM in their classrooms in the school. The students will be attending a Vigil Mass for the feast of the Immaculate Conception at 7:00 PM in the church. All families of students and parishioners are invited to join them for this mass. Parents should pick up their students from church at 7:45 PM.

GIFT GIVING WEEKEND

On the weekend of December 10th and 11th we invite you to make Christmas a joyous occasion for needy families by bringing NEW, unwrapped gifts to place under the Christmas tree in the church, Gifts for all ages are appreciated, don't forget the teenagers and adults! Your sharing will add to the happiness of the recipient's Christmas, as well as your own.

If you are a parish family who is in need or if you know of a family in need at this time, please call Nicole at the parish center, 651-224-9793. All names will be kept confidential.

WELCOME ST. LUKE'S PARISH YOUTH CHOIR

Joining our youth choir at our 5:00 PM Mass this weekend is the St. Luke's Youth Choir. Last year, during Lent, St. Matt's Parish Youth Choir went to St. Luke's for a combined Youth Choir ministry event. Now, it's our turn to host the combined Youth Choirs of St. Matt's & St. Luke's -- the Mighty "Matth-ukes". Thank you to our young people for their gift of song & service. And thank you to Kathryn Lien, Director of Liturgy & Music at St. Luke's, for teaming up with Dana to make this combined ministry possible.

FESTIVAL CHOIR FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON

This year's FESTIVAL CHOIR began rehearsals on Thursday, Dec. 1st and YOU are STILL INVITED! This choir sings for our Christmas Midnight Mass but festival members are also invited to sing for any other Adult Choir masses during the seasons of Advent and Christmas -- as few or as many as you wish. Our rehearsals are from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Thursday nights -- in the CHURCH. Call Dana to "sign-on" or to ask questions -- leave a message at 651-310-0830 -- or stop by the music corner in church after any mass. Also, if you have an instrumental skill you would like to add to any of our Advent/Christmas liturgies -- let Dana know.

CYCLE B" ST. JOSEPH'S MISSALS

Missals are available for purchase at the back of church. Our new liturgical year begins November 27th and this year's Cycle B will be significantly different from previous Cycle B missals you may have on your shelf at home. This year Christmas & New Years fall on Sunday. Purchase price is \$5.00.

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	December 4
10:30 AM, MC	Baptism
12:00 PM, CH	Baptism
12:30 PM, CH	Baptism
Monday	December 5
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:45 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday	December 6
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Wednesday	December 7
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
7:00 PM, MC	Religious Education
	Vigil Mass — Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Thursday	December 8
6:45 AM, MC	Mass — Feast of the Immaculate Conception
9:00 AM, MC	School Mass — Feast of the Immaculate Conception
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
5:30 PM, MC	Mass — Feast of the Immaculate Conception
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
Friday	December 9
Saturday	December 10
5:00 PM, MC	Gift Giving
Sunday	December 11
8:00 AM, MC	Gift Giving
10:30 AM, MC	Gift Giving

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

Plate and envelope-November 27: \$9,634.49
 Needed per week: \$9,457.00

Plate & envelope to date: \$179,915.00
 Need to date: \$208,054.00
 -28,139.00

Children's Envelopes \$2.07
 School Collection \$105.00
 Holy Day \$30.00

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 4 8:00 AM Rose Garcia
 Larry Simmons, Living &
 deceased members of the
 Rosary Society
 10:30 AM Elias Uribe
 Parishioners
 Monday, December 5 Parishioners
 Tuesday, December 6 World Peace
 Wednesday, December 7 6:45 AM James Fee (ann'y)
 7:00 PM Religious Ed Mass
 Thursday, December 8 6:45 AM Parishioners
 9:00 AM School Mass
 5:30 PM World Peace
 Friday, December 9
 Saturday, December 10 Joseph Platenberg
 Joseph Palermo
 Sunday, December 11 8:00 AM Agnes DeFoe
 John Meyers, Ed Maher
 10:30 AM Parishioners
 The Bisciglia Family

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 4, 2005
 Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/ 2 Pt 3:8-14/ Mk 1:1-8
 Monday: Is 35:1-10/ Lk 5:17-26
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/ Mt 18:12-14
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/ Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/
 Lk 1:26-38
 Friday: Is 48:17-19/ Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/ Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/ 1 Thes 5:16-24/
 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

NOVEMBER 500 CARD CLUB WINNERS

1st Place—3520—Rita Marquardt & Bea O'Neill, 2nd
 Place—3250—Tecla Ambrose & Linda Brooks

PARISH DIRECTORY

Saint Matthew Church Office..... 651-224-9793
 Web site: st-matts.org
 Bulletin Email: bulletin.editor@st-matts.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor..... *Father Stephen Adrian*
 Deacon..... *Rev. John Murphy*
 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
 Extended Day 651-228-1535
 KLT Kids 651-665-0786
 Liturgy and Music Voicemail..... 651-310-0830
 Prayerline Receiver 651-222-3622 or 651-454-5021

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

Parish Council email: parishcouncil@st-matts.org

Becky Montgomery Larry Sachi
 Marty Olson John Sekevitch
 Connie Aligada Sister Joanna Illg
 Lucus Ecker Mark Thomford
 Tony Joe Wenker Stephen Adrian

Committee Chairs

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