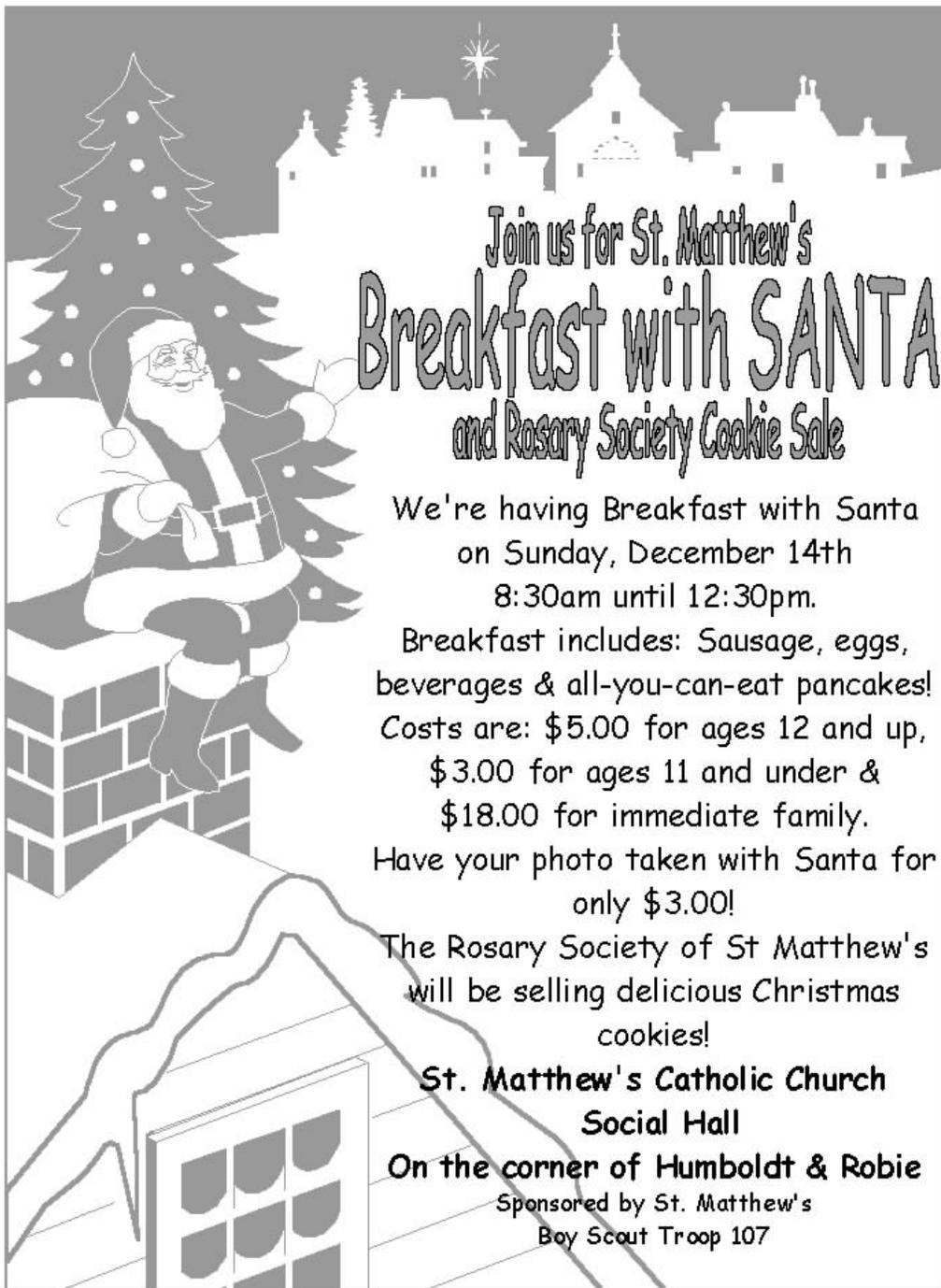


The Community of St. Matthew

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



Join us for St. Matthew's
Breakfast with SANTA
and Rosary Society Cookie Sale

We're having Breakfast with Santa
on Sunday, December 14th
8:30am until 12:30pm.
Breakfast includes: Sausage, eggs,
beverages & all-you-can-eat pancakes!
Costs are: \$5.00 for ages 12 and up,
\$3.00 for ages 11 and under &
\$18.00 for immediate family.
Have your photo taken with Santa for
only \$3.00!

The Rosary Society of St Matthew's
will be selling delicious Christmas
cookies!

**St. Matthew's Catholic Church
Social Hall**
On the corner of Humboldt & Robie
Sponsored by St. Matthew's
Boy Scout Troop 107

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

Thirty-five years ago Monday, December 8th, 1968, I was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. The memory of that day and its events is fleeting and unclear. To my knowledge there was not one photograph taken that day.

I was raised in a traditional Catholic family, immigrant roots, a union household, two brothers and three sisters. Church and neighborhood were all important, next to family. My parents attended Mass daily, we prayed the family rosary each night and participated in a host of devotional practices -- First Fridays, First Saturdays, Stations of the Cross in Lent, Rosary and Benediction during May and October, Sunday afternoon Eucharistic adoration. I sang in the children's choir and was a Mass server. I knew the Latin prayers from rote and could recite them flawlessly.

During grade school years my siblings and I attended 8:00 Mass each morning before school and then went to the "school lunch room" and had a breakfast of chocolate milk and a powdered sugar donut -- I can still smell the milk and the donut; most of the powdered sugar ended up on me!

I was a "holy terror". I smashed windows with snow balls, "robbed" apples from the neighbor's trees, played with matches and burned down a few neighborhood garages, ran away from home at the age of three, stole money from my mother's purse and at the age of four found a "stash" of tranquilizers in the medicine cabinet and almost overdosed. In retrospect, who could blame my mother for needing a tranquilizer now and then with a "brat" like me. When I left home and went to school the property values in the neighborhood went up -- considerably.

The two most important people in the neighborhood were the local parish priest and the local politician. They were important because they made a difference in the life of a community.

Even though my father was a lifelong Democrat, my earliest political leanings were to the right. I was overjoyed that General Eisenhower might win the nomination over Robert Taft -- after all, who better than a General to put those "Commies" in North Korea in their place. At age 15 I championed "states

rights" and was enthralled by Governor Faubus for his refusing to bow to desegregation. In my senior year in high school I wrote an article for the school newspaper opposing the use of English in the liturgy and championed the pristine value of Latin. All of this is true!

At the same time great teachers sought to open my eyes and extend my reach. James Cecka introduced me to the social teaching of the church. Thomas Conroy, James Moudry and Jack Sweeney made the renewal of liturgy and the study of scripture come alive.

Then I met some people, people different from me, people who thought differently and saw things through different eyes. As a college student I was introduced to Young Christian Workers and Young Christian Students, I went off to Notre Dame and studied liturgy under such teachers as Louis Bouyer, Josef Goldbruner, Bernard Haring, Cornelius Bauman, Krister Stendahl and many others. Pope John the XXIII caught my imagination and fired my spirit. John Fitzgerald Kennedy did the same, as did Lyndon Johnson and the Great Society. I met Caesar Chavez and Dr. Martin Luther King.

All the while my mother and father looked at me with some skepticism, and yet encouraged my enthusiasm.

The semi-conscious direction within me was to do something with my life that might make a difference. Some call this "vocation" and some call it "destiny". It was this energy that ultimately brought me to the priesthood -- by a very serpentine route. Hundreds of people touched my childhood and adolescent life; people took me seriously and encouraged me. Perhaps there is nothing that makes so much of a difference in life as the work of encouraging the dream and enthusiasm of your people.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This Monday, December 8th. This is the Patron Feast of the United States and a Holy Day. Masses at Saint Matthew's are at 6:45 and 8:30 AM and 5:15 PM.

MEALS ON WHEELS

We are still looking for at least one volunteer who would deliver Meals on Wheels once a month. The route is on the West Side and the meals are picked up at Neighborhood House. If interested, call Ron Finnegan at 651-457-9183.

LEISURE CLUB

Saint Matthew's Leisure Club will have a luncheon and Christmas party on Wednesday, December 10th at the Cherokee Sirloin Room. Social hour will start at 11:30 AM and lunch is at 12 Noon. Tickets for this luncheon and Christmas party were purchased in advance.

ROSARY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

The Rosary Society Christmas Bake Sale is Saturday and Sunday, December 13th and 14th. Bakery items can be brought to the Social Hall on Saturday between 9:00 AM.—12 Noon for packaging. Items will be sold after Mass in the church on Saturday. On Sunday, the baked goods will be sold in the morning in the Social Hall during the Breakfast with Santa.

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

All First Communion and Reconciliation students and their parents are reminded of the meeting in the Church on Tuesday, December 9th at 6:45PM.

THANK YOU...

...to the group of Seventh Grade boys and girls for helping with environment, cleaning and preparing the Church for Advent. Good job, guys!

ST. MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY GIVING TREE

The Confirmation Candidates of St. Matthew's are hosting the annual Gift Giving Program this year. Members of the congregation have donated unwrapped gifts at all masses this weekend.. Confirmation students will sort these gifts and on Saturday, December 13, those community members who are in need this holiday season are invited to stop by the Church between 9:30 AM-12:30 PM to choose gifts for their families. Gift wrapping will be available. If you are in need of gifts at this time, please call Nicole at the parish center (224-9793), so we can be assured an adequate number of gifts. All names will be kept confidential

ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING

Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30 PM in the Social Hall (Remember, this is a change in time.) The evening will consist of Christmas Bingo and a speaker and demonstration on "solar ovens." This is an economical method of cooking used in underdeveloped countries. All women are welcome!

LAST CALL FOR FESTIVAL CHOIR OPPORTUNITIES!

If you would like to participate in our Festival Choir, call Dana at 651-310-0830. We have music ministry needs for Christmas Eve at 4:30 PM, Midnight Mass, and Christmas Day at 8:00 and 10:30 AM. We can use singers (young, old, families, couples, etc.) as well as instrumentalists. Our regular rehearsals are on Thursdays, in the church, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. If you are eager to participate, or just have a few questions, call Dana at the number above, or stop by the piano after Mass.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The Annual West Side Community Blood Drive will be on Sunday, December 28th from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM at the Neighborhood House-El Rio Vista. Call Gilbert at 651-789-2544 for an appointment. Saint Matthew's volunteer blood drive callers will also be making calls from the list of donors from Saint Matthew's. Please give the "Gift of Life" this holiday season!

HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

If you are a resident of the S. St. Paul, W. St. Paul, Mendota Heights., Inver Grove Heights or Lilydale areas, you may qualify to seek assistance for your family this Christmas Season. Neighbors, Inc. is located at 218-13th Ave. S. in S. St. Paul. They are taking applications at this time for families with children who have need be it due to unemployment, low income job or illness, or for seniors (over age 55) who do not have family and are living on a very small income. The hours that you can apply for assistance at Neighbors, Inc. are 8:45—11:00 AM and 1:00—3:30 PM, Monday through Friday. At the time of application, you MUST bring a photo ID and a current utility bill which indicates you live in their service area. Please call Colleen at 651-455-1508, extension 15, Monday through Friday at Neighbors, Inc. for more information and complete details on this program. Neighbors, Inc. is also seeking families, companies or organizations who would like to Adopt a Family or a Senior. Again, contact Colleen for information.

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	December 7
12:00 PM, CH	Baptism
12:30 PM, CH	Baptism
Monday	December 8
6:45 AM, MC	Mass
8:30 AM, MC	School Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
5:15 PM, MC	Mass
6:45 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday	December 9
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:30 PM, SH	Rosary Society Mtg
6:45 PM, MC	Sacramental Program
	First Reconciliation
	First Communion
Wednesday	December 10
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:30 PM, SC	Religious Education, Grades 1—10
Thursday	December 11
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
5:00 PM, MC	Youth Choir
6:45 PM, PC	Parish Council Mtg
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
Friday	December 12
Saturday	December 13
Sunday	December 14
Santa Breakfast	
2:00 PM, MC	Communal Reconciliation
4:00 PM, MC	Communal Reconciliation

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, November 30

Envelope and Plate offering	\$8177.53
Children's Envelopes	\$8.75
School Fund Envelopes	\$35.00
Holy Day Envelope (Christmas)	\$110.00
Thanksgiving Collection for the Cherokee Sirloin Room	\$389.25
Campaign for Human Development	\$177.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 7	8:00 AM	John Bandholz Agnes DeFoe Larry Simmons
	10:30 AM	Helen Hannegraf Parishioners
Monday, December 8	6:45 AM	Parishioners
	8:30 AM	School
	5:15 PM	
Tuesday, December 9		Lorraine Mike
Wednesday, December 10		Parishioners
Thursday, December 11		Parishioners
Friday, December 12		
Saturday, December 13		James L. Fee (Ann'y) George Lackner Frances Martineau
Sunday, December 14	8:00 AM	Ed Maher Barbara Barnard
	10:30 AM	Juli Hafiz Parishioners

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 7, 2003

Sunday, December 7	Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6
Monday, December 8	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday, December 9	Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday, December 10	Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday, December 11	Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
Friday, December 12	Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday, December 13	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday	Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

There will be an extra Mass at 5:15 PM on Monday, December 8th to celebrate the Immaculate Conception. We need liturgical ministers for this Mass. If you can help out, there is a sign-up sheet in the main sacristy next to the check-in board.

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 AdvisoryMichele Edwards
Liturgy