

# The Community of St. Matthew



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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

Next weekend the annual collection to support the retirement of religious sisters and brothers takes place.

Until very recently sisters and brothers received a small stipend for their work and were provided with room and board. The financial stipend often went to the community for the work of all. In addition, only recently have religious been under the Social Security Act.

As a result, as the number of retired religious grows there is very limited means to provide for their retirement and/or their assisted living.

This annual collection is NOT a work of charity; it IS a work of justice. What we are now attempting to provide is the compensation that was deferred for so many generations.

The face of the Catholic Church in the United States is what it is today because of generations of service provided by religious sisters and brothers. Catholic education and Catholic health care particularly rested on the shoulders of religious orders and congregations.

Even though the numbers of religious are smaller today

than before, and the number of retired are more than those active in ministry, each of us stands in debt to religious and their communities for having been the architects of the American Catholic Church.

Often church history books give lots of space to the role of bishops in establishing the Church in the United States. I suggest that the real founders and pioneers and shapers of American Catholicism are the religious orders and congregations. They were the backbone of Catholic life and service from the very beginning.

It is past time to guarantee a respectful and appropriate retirement for sisters and brothers.

Religious life today is no less vital and important to the Church. Saint Matthew's continues to be blessed with the presence and ministry of religious sisters and brothers – they truly enrich the life of this parish.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian  
Pastor

## PARISH EVENTS

### **Happy Ordination Anniversary to Father Steve—number 39!!**

Father Steve was ordained on the Feast of Immaculate Conception in 1968.

He begins year number 40 of his priesthood.

[Maybe we need to begin planning for the 'big' party next year.]

### DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

Do you enjoy singing, but cannot make a long term commitment to rehearsals? Consider joining the choir for Christmas! We will begin rehearsing the music for Christmas on Wednesday evenings in the church. Consider rehearsing with us from now until Christmas! Rehearsals are from 7-8:15 PM. The Choir will be singing at the Midnight liturgy on Christmas Eve, with caroling starting at 11:30 PM. All are welcome. Questions? Call Bonnie Faber, Director of Music and Liturgy, at the Parish Center 651-224-9793.

### ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS!

We are looking for instrumentalists to play for our Christmas liturgies. The psalms tell us to make a joyful noise "with timbrel and harp." If you play the timbrel or harp, or violin or trumpet or guitar or.....please call Bonnie Faber, Director of Music and Liturgy, at the Parish Center 651-224-9793.

### ROSARY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Join us in the Church Social Hall on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:45 p.m. for our Christmas meeting and party.

## EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS

### GIFT GIVING

Once again this year the Confirmation class is coordinating the Giving Tree. We need your help to make Christmas brighter for the families of our Community. Please bring your unwrapped gifts to church prior to Friday, December 14 and place them under the tree in the back of church. If you prefer to make a donation of cash or SCRIP please do so at the SCRIP table. The families we are helping have children ages birth - 18. There is a definite need for gifts for the teens.

### HOLIDAY SCRIP ORDERS

Order your scrip for the holidays now and beat the rush. There is a gift card out there available for everyone, moms, dads, grandparents, brothers, sisters, friends, neighbors, students or teachers. Stop by the scrip table and get an order form today.

### 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.

### PARTNER WITH THE SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME AS A TUTOR

The East Side Learning Center is seeking volunteer tutors who will make a difference in a child's life by tutoring in reading for as little as one hour a week. The volunteer tutors work one-on-one with children from the East Side of St. Paul in grades K-4 who are below grade level in reading. Tutoring sessions are held Mon.-Thurs. from 3:00-5:00 PM. There are a few openings earlier in the afternoon. Sessions are also held some weekday mornings at Trinity Catholic School from 8:30-9:30 AM. Volunteers receive an initial orientation and on-going training, and are provided with lesson plans and materials for each session. **You do not need to have a teaching background to tutor.** A commitment of at least one hour per week for 10 weeks is requested. For more information contact Sister Jana Roberts at 651-793-7331.

### CAN YOU HELP A NEIGHBOR?

St. Matthew's team needs help delivering Meals on Wheels. An hour of your time, once a month, could make life easier for a shut-in. Please consider helping! Call Jan at 651-457-4766.

## THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM	<b>December 9</b> Boy Scout Santa Breakfast—Rosary Society Bake Sale
<b>Monday</b> 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, SC 6:45 PM, XC	<b>December 10</b> Loaves and Fishes EAC Meeting Boy Scout Meeting
<b>Tuesday</b> 3:00 PM, SH 6:45 PM, SH	<b>December 11</b> Loaves and Fishes Rosary Society Mtg.
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 1:30 PM, SH 3:00 PM, SH 5:00 PM, MC 6:30 PM, SC  7:00 PM, MC 7:30 PM, SH  8:00 PM, SH	<b>December 12</b> St. Mary's Clinic Leisure Club Loaves and Fishes HummDingers Religious Education, Grades 1-10 Adult Choir Men's Club Christmas Auction Men's Club Mtg.
<b>Thursday</b> 3:00 PM, SH 7:00 PM, SC	<b>December 13</b> Loaves and Fishes Christmas Concert
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 14</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 15</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 2:00 PM & 4:00 PM	<b>December 16</b> Communal Penance Service

### Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

We must be good stewards of God’s gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today: “Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

A reminder and an invitation: the envelopes that each family receives are both for the inclusion of cash and check and for the inclusion of testimony of faithfulness in stewarding our time in prayer and our abilities in service to others. Those amounts and descriptions are included in the bulletin as 1) testimony of the stewardship of parishioners; as 2) examples of what can be done in prayer and service; and as 3) the witness that some parishioners can give even when there is no ‘money’ included.

Prayer: How are we doing with prayerful preparation for the weekend liturgical celebration? Reflection on the week? Reading of the appropriate Scriptures? In this season of silence, spending time meditating?

Service: Volunteering 30 minutes each day; volunteering one hour each day; six hours in training for healing ministry; contributed to the food shelf; visited those who are homebound; was a greeter at weekend Mass; helped in the school library.

Sharing Last weekend, amid the snow, the amount given was \$11,002. Thank you to every faithful steward. [That does include a gift of stock [\$1350] and an annual gift [\$2500].] The latter gifts can remind us of the different ways that all can make contributions toward the pledge to be good financial stewards. If you have assets [stocks or bonds] that have increased in value, you may donate them to the parish and receive credit for the entire value—as a donation. The parish will pay the transfer/selling fee.

Thanks to those eleven ‘families’ who will be moving to EFT [electronic funds transfer] at the beginning of the year. This will allow contributions to be regular and consistent. Others interested are invited to call the parish office.

Audits: Employees at Boulay, Heutmaker and Zeibell have completed the audits of the Child Care and the Parish corporations. Members of the finance council are reviewing the documents. A copy of the audit and management letter will be available in the parish center for reading and review.

WEEKLY READINGS

- Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
- Monday: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

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  
 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
Michael Linn	Stephen Adrian