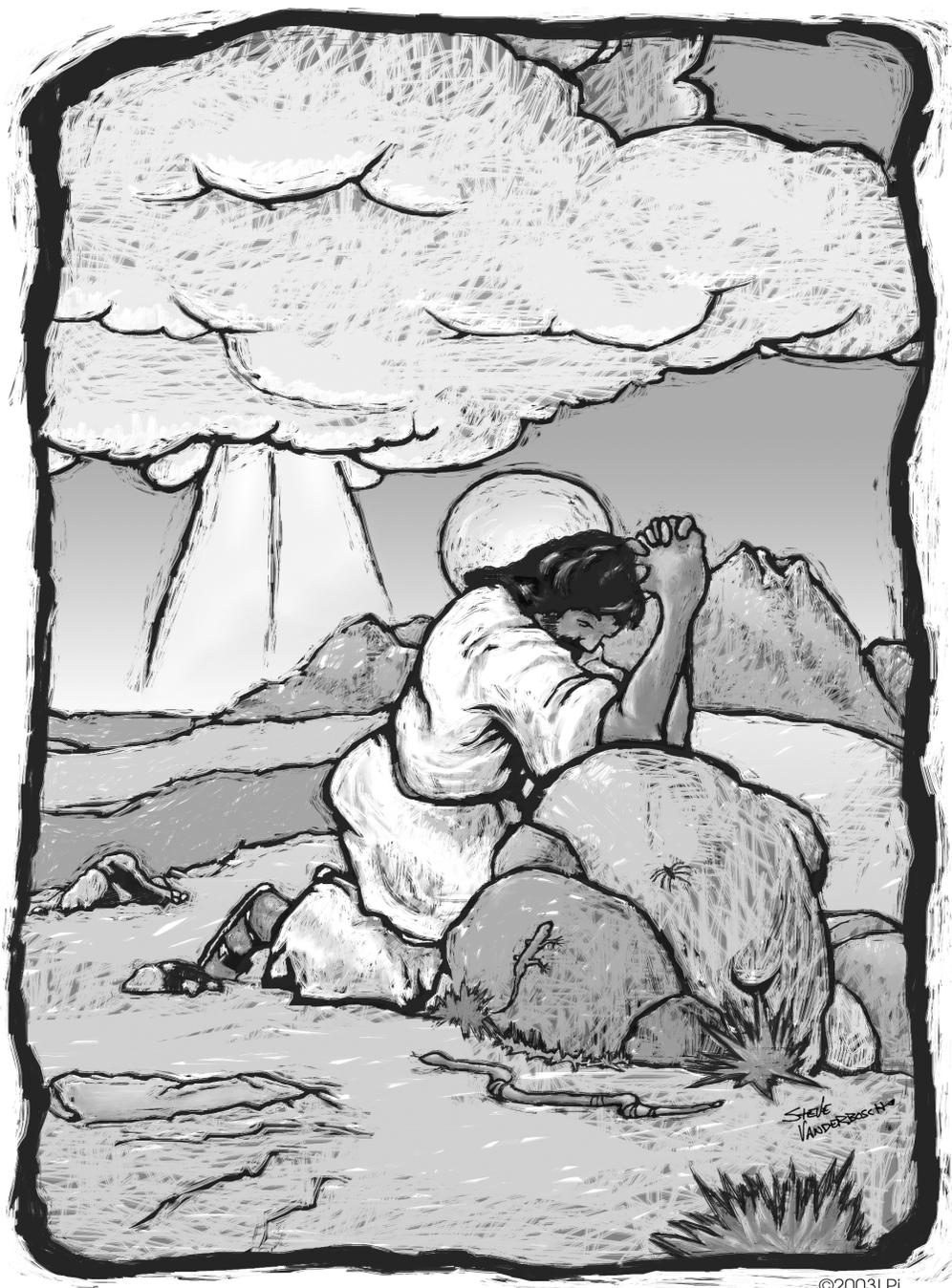


The Community of St. Matthew

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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

During the 90 days between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday the process of discernment and selection of Parish Council members takes place.

There are ten members of the Council – the pastor and nine other parish members.

The Council is the decision making body for the Community of Saint Matthew. The work of the Council focuses on the direction, priorities and mission of the community. The Council is NOT a committee of the whole which undertakes the implementation of parish programs – that is the work of parish staff and the committees and boards which work with individual staff persons.

Decisions of the Council are made by a consensus model. This is not the most efficient way to make decisions, but it is the way which allows enough time and space for the Holy Spirit to lead and direct the work of the Council.

Do you believe that the Spirit of God is inviting you to consider serving your parish community as a council member? Do you know someone who you believe should consider bringing his/her talents in service as a council member?

I encourage you to call the Church office (651-224-9793) to indicate that you are willing to consider this ministry, or to suggest the name of a person who you believe has the gifts to serve in this capacity.

A member of the Council will contact you or the person

you recommend.

I ask all of us to pray earnestly during this time that the spirit may touch the hearts and minds of those who can strongly serve this community; and that we will all be open to the prompting of the Spirit.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

Fast and Abstinence in Lent

Abstinence: Catholics from 14 years of age are to abstain from eating meat on Fridays in honor of the Passion of Jesus.

Fasting The law of fasting requires a Catholic from the 18th Birthday to the 59th Birthday to reduce the amount of food eaten from normal. The Church defines this as one meal a day, and two smaller meals which if added together would not exceed the main meal in quantity. Such fasting is obligatory on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Those who are excused from fast or abstinence Besides those outside the age limits, the sick, the frail, pregnant or nursing women, manual laborers, guests at a meal who cannot excuse themselves without giving great offense are excused from the obligation of fast and abstinence.

PARISH EVENTS

LENTEN FISH FRY

Every Friday from February 8 through March 14. All you can eat Fish Fry (fried or baked) from 4:30 to 7:30. Baked Potato, vegetable, roll, salad bar, milk, coffee, and dessert are included. Adults \$8.75, children 4-13 \$5.00, under 4 free. Special senior hour from 4-5 pm \$7.50. Our 19th annual Lenten Fish Fry.

PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact Marge at 651-455-6886 or Judy at 651-686-5463 with your request for the prayer chain. The information that you give to us will be treated confidentially.

CONTINUING NEED

Every day some of our neighbors struggle to put food on their table. Helping them is as easy as bringing food or paper products to weekend worship. Every week food is collected here and brought to Neighborhood House. You'll find wish lists or envelopes for cash donations on the bulletin board in back of church. The food shelf is always in **need of grocery bags** too, so bring a few to recycle with your donation. Thank you for your help. The Food Shelf Committee.

2008 CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA SEEKS GRAND MARSHAL NOMINATIONS

For more information and/ or to obtain a Grand Marshal nomination form, please visit our website at www.districtdelsol.com or call 651-222-6347.

EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS

SAVE YOUR POP TOPS

The 4th grade students at St. Matthew's are collecting pop tops for the Twin Cities Ronald McDonald House from now until Easter. The students researched what the House uses the money raised through the pop tops and are very excited to participate in this project. There will be a container in the entry way to the church to put them in. Thank you for your help!

A LENTEN RETREAT

"How Big is Your God?": The Loyola Spirituality Center is sponsoring a weekend retreat led by an internationally recognized Ignatian scholar, charismatic teacher, and author, Paul Coutinho, a Jesuit Priest from the Bombay province of India who has a doctorate in historical theology from St. Louis University. Fr. Coutinho credits spiritual teachers and friends from many traditions for deepening his concept of the Divine. The retreat will be held Friday, March 7 (7-9 p.m.) and Saturday, March 8 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) at the Church of St. Peter in Mendota, with a Mass scheduled at 8 a.m. on Saturday. The cost for both days is \$30 (or \$10 for Friday only; \$25 for Saturday only). Call 651-641-0008 (or go to www.loyolaspiritualitycenter.org) for more information.

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE - FEBRUARY 21

Do you have a child who will be starting kindergarten in the fall? here's your chance to visit our school and check out our Kindergarten program. Open house for the kindergarten will be on Thursday, February 21 at 9:00 AM or 7:00 PM in the school. This open house is for parents and child. You will have the opportunity to meet the teacher, staff and parents of St. Matthew's school. If you would like more information please call the school office at 651-224-6912.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation will be on Tuesday, February 12 at 6:30 PM, in the Church.

COFFEE SUNDAY

Coffee Hour after both Sunday masses is being served by Jason, Jennifer and Hannah Delmont - Thanks. Come on down to the Social Hall and join us for a hot cup of coffee (now featuring Honduran, high altitude, shade grown beans) good things to eat and conversation in the Social Hall. Treats are always welcome and volunteers are needed to staff future coffee hours too. Call John @ 651-221-0871 to sign up.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	February 10
4:00 PM, MC	Confirmation Class
Monday	February 11
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:30 PM, SC	EAC Meeting
6:45 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
7:00 PM, MC	Stations of the Cross
Tuesday	February 12
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
12:10 PM, CH	Mass
12:30 PM, SH	Rosary Society Luncheon W/ Leisure Club
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:30 PM, SC	Home & School
Wednesday	February 13
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
12:10 PM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
5:00 PM, MC	Hummingbirds
6:30 PM, SC	Religious Education, Grades 1-10
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
8:00 PM, SH	Men's Club
Thursday	February 14
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
12:10 AM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Friday	February 15
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
4:30-7:30 PM, SH	Fish Fry
5:15 PM, MC	Mass

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

What temptations lure us from the pate of discipleship? Possessions? Pride? Power? May the Lord create in us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within each of us!

Prayer: What resolution have we made—a resolution about spending “regular” time in prayer? Frequently, Christians think about Lent as a time to “give up” something. May be this year is the time for us to “take up” something—like regularity in our prayer life. If we work hard at cultivating this habit, it might continue after the celebration of Easter.

Service: 10 hours volunteering in my children’s school; helped in the school library; donated household items for use by others; donated blood; was a money-counter; drove others to Mass; gave a ride to a neighbor; brought goods for the food shelf; worked at the food shelf

Sharing: Thanks to all for \$8,650 last week in plate, envelopes, and electronically. [Another parish family “signed up” for electronic giving. The mom of the house said, “I just don’t remember when I’ve written a check and when not; this will be much easier.” It’s so simple; a call to the parish office will take care of it.]

As well: \$897 in school fund envelopes and plate; \$50 in holyday envelopes; \$50 for the fuel collection; and \$365 for kitchen equipment replacement. Thank you to all. Each of those dollars will be used as directed and requested.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of February 10, 2008
 Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11
 Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46
 Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
 Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
 Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
 Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
 Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
 Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

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