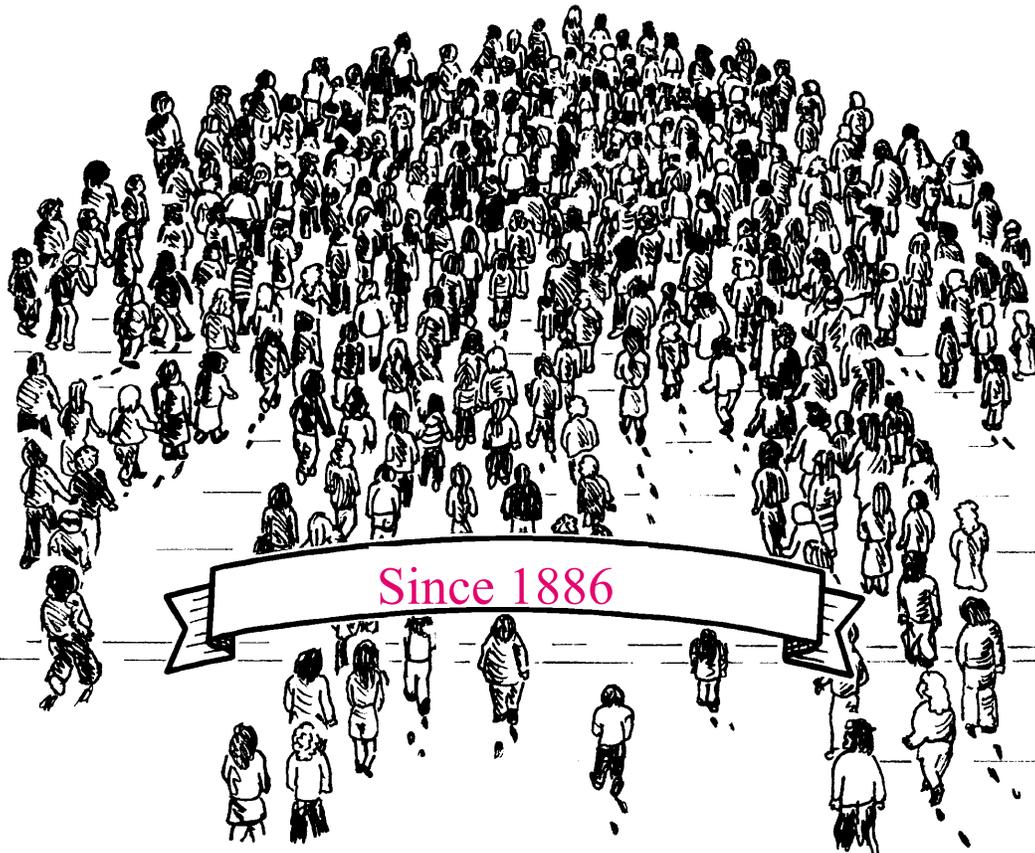


# The Community of St. Matthew



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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

The following is an editorial from the London Tablet, one of the most prestigious Catholic journals in the English speaking language. The writer is Catherine Pepinster, editor of the Tablet. She has an interesting take on the encyclical letter of Pope Benedict.

Yours truly,

Stephen Adrian  
Pastor

Few would have guessed last April, when Joseph Ratzinger, the notorious hard man and "enforcer" of the Catholic church was elected Pope Benedict, that the first teaching document of his pontificate would be a hymn to love. Last week when he published his encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est* (God is love), all thoughts of Cardinal Ratzinger, head of the congregation for the doctrine of the faith, were banished.

Rather than a finger-wagging edict of disapproval, here was a lucid celebration of love, both human and divine. Benedict sees love in much the same way as the writer of the most erotic book of the Bible, the Song of Songs: "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth; for thy love is better than wine." It is a form of love which can lead us to beyond ourselves, and after the first intoxication goes on to the seek the good of the beloved. It is ready for renunciation and sacrifice. It reflects the mystical encounter between humanity and God.

Yet before we get carried away with this idealized vision, Benedict also issues a warning, one that will surely resonate with women today. He writes that there is a danger sex can be reduced to a mere thing to be bought and sold and exploited.

This commodification of sex happens all around us, and is particularly apparent in the treatment of women and their bodies: the number of men using prostitutes is at an all-time high; the trafficking of women and girls from poorer developing and eastern European countries to the west is one of the most dismal growth industries of our time; the female form continues to be exploited to sell goods; the sexiness of a woman remains a priority for onscreen TV work; tabloid papers continue to focus on women's sexual prowess in their promotion of particular celebrities; teenage girls and young women feel under continual pressure to dress in a highly sexual way. Yet while women among themselves express grave disquiet about this, particularly its impact on their daughters, few public figures, other than the Pope, raise their voices in protest.

As Pope, Benedict has so far surprised most Catholics, with a warmer, more compassionate approach than was ever expected from him. Could this Pope yet turn out to be the feminists' friend? To do that would require not only a development of these ideas about women's role at work, but a theology of the body for our times. That would mean renewed exploration of what remains one of the most contentious Catholic teaching for women - its thinking on birth control. For 40 years the highest officials in the church have refused to budge, or even reconsider their position. But this Pope, I suspect, would not be afraid of doing so.

## PARISH EVENTS

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ALMA!

The Rosary Society joins the parish community in congratulating our oldest member, Alma Becker, whose 107th birthday is February 23rd. She is one of few who have lived in 3 centuries! Happy Birthday, Alma!

### ATTENTION LECTORS & COMMUNION MINISTERS!

Lent is fast approaching -- March 1st is Ash Wednesday. As in the past, we are looking for help with the daily liturgies of Lent. If you can help, please indicate which liturgies you can cover on the sign up sheets in the main sacristy. Lectors, if you would like a copy of your reading(s), leave Dana a message at 651-310-0830.

### A NEW LOOK AT LENT

Spend an hour between Masses on Sunday, February 26, preparing to enter the season of Lent in a new way. We will share old traditions, explore new approaches and discuss the fundamental and foundational elements of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Mary Lou Logsdon will lead us in this reflection from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Chapel. An expanded version is also being offered at Loyola Spiritual Center in St. Paul on February 28 from 6:30-8:30 PM There is a charge of \$20 for the Loyola offering. To register for Loyola call 651/222-2121. There is no fee or registration requirement for the St. Matthew session

## EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS



### CHILD CARE FAMILY FUN NIGHT

The St. Matthew's Child Care Center is hosting their February Family Fun Night on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM. Join the staff of the center for dinner and February crafts. This is a great chance to see the center, the children and families that attend, and to meet some of our fabulous staff members. Please call the child care center at 651-224-1450 to RSVP so the appropriate number of dinners are available. Everyone is welcome to join in this event!

### SOCK COLLECTION FOR LISTENING HOUSE

Please bring your donations for Listening House through February 26. We will gladly accept white athletic socks, t-shirts, personal care items, and new or gently-used clothing for children, women, and men. Several of you have donated wool socks and long-sleeve shirts which will be warmly welcomed by people who spend a lot of time outdoors.

### COFFEE HOURS AFTER SUNDAY MASSES TODAY!

All are welcome to stop by after the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM masses Sunday (02/19/06) for coffee and donuts sponsored and staffed by the St. Matthew's Home and School Association and featuring Krispy Kreme Donuts – thanks. If you would like to reach the Home and School Association call Krisine Erickson at 651-256-4696. To the folks bringing in baked goods thanks from all of us who enjoy your work (including St. Matts school kids at lunch). If you and/or your family/group would like to help in the future or if you can commit to bringing baked good items for a future coffee hour contact John Del Vecchio at 651-221-0871.

### COME & SEE EXPERIENCES

School Sisters of Notre Dame are hosting Come & See experiences in their local communities during March 2006. There are four host sites in St. Paul; others in Crystal, Mankato, Gaylord and Winona. Young women, high school juniors and older, may select the time and place that are most convenient. COME & SEE is an opportunity for an "inside look" at the community life and ministries of sisters. Each experience will include prayer, sisters sharing highlights of their vocation stories, conversation about or an experience of ministry, and of course good food and fun. Weekday and weekend timeframes are available, overnight or daytime. Interested women whose first language is Spanish are encouraged to consider participating at the Gaylord or St. Paul sites where several sisters are bilingual. For details about each COME & SEE, and to register, visit the SSND website @ [www.ssndmankato.org](http://www.ssndmankato.org) or call 507.389.4296.

## THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 19</b>
12:00 PM, CH	Baptism
12:30 PM, CH	Baptism
4:00 PM SH	Blue and Gold Dinner
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 20</b>
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:30 PM, SC	Religious Education Class, Grades 1-10
6:45 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 21</b>
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
7:00 PM, MC	Guitar Group
7:00 PM, SH	First Communion Class
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 22</b>
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 23</b>
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
5:00 PM, MC	Youth Choir
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
<b>Friday</b>	<b>February 24</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 25</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 26</b>
12:00 PM, CH	Baptism

### Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

Plate and envelope-February 12	\$7,398.62
Needed per week:	\$9,457.00
Plate & envelope to date:	\$289,451.00
Need to date:	<u>\$312,081.00</u>
	-\$22,232.00
School Fund	\$67.00
Holy day	\$30.00

We give because we have received. We give because we truly recognize that all we have received is a gift of God. We express gratitude by saying "thank you"; we do gratitude by stewardship. Giving is Thank You in action; and we all know that actions speak louder than words. Last week our stewardship offering was \$2,000 behind the weekly budget of \$9,450. That means we are \$22,000 behind so far this year. If at times you have missed the stewardship weekly collection, please try to make that up.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, February 19	8:00 AM Larry Simmons Robert Stickler, Sr. , Helen Savard 10:30 AM Parishioners
Monday, February 20	Parishioners
Tuesday, February 21	Sr. Anne Becker, SSND
Wednesday, February 22	John Williams Klingner Family
Thursday, February 23	Ray Mosberger Vickie Traynor Alma Becker (Birthday)
Friday, February 24	
Saturday, February 25	Sally Fee (Anniversary) Christopher N. Willems
Sunday, February 26	8:00 AM Agnes DeFoe John Meyers, Helen Savard 10:30 AM Klotine Mosby Parishioners

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of February 12, 2006

Sunday:	Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/ 1 Cor 10:31-11:1/ Mk 1:40-45
Monday:	Jas 1:1-11/ Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Jas 1:12-18/ Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Jas 1:19-27/ Mk 8:22-26
Thursday:	Jas 2:1-9/ Mk 8:27-33
Friday:	Jas 2:14-24, 26/ Mk 8:34-9:1
Saturday:	Jas 3:1-10/ Mk 9:2-13
Next Sunday:	Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25/ 2 Cor 1:18-22/ Mk 2:1-12

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  
 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*