

The Community of St. Matthew



2nd Annual Parish Ministry Fair



**Saturday and Sunday
February 17 – 18, 2007**



Everyone is invited to the Social Hall to
discover the many Ministries of the
St. Matthew's Community

Over 20 Ministries will be participating!

Which one will catch your eye?

Presented by the Parish Council

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

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

Two weeks ago Notre Dame University issued a final report on Catholic schools in the United States. The report is called:

Making God Known, Loved, and Served

The Future of Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools in the United States

Notre Dame Task Force on Catholic Education

The report is highly positive and challenging. One of the pieces of the report calls upon pastors and parish leaders to invest deeply in Catholic schools. The following is a part of the report addressed to pastors and parishes:

The Pastor, the Pulpit, and Parish Life

The call for pastors to give vigorous support to Catholic schools must begin with the acknowledgement of some hard facts about our historical moment. Parochial schools require substantial resources, both financial and human. In most parishes, the school accounts for a high percentage of the overall operating budget and, often enough can be perceived as a burden on parish. In most cases, the presence of a parochial school certainly adds to the administrative workload of the pastor. And with fewer priests serving a growing Catholic population, the job of the pastor has, arguably, never been more difficult. Out of necessity, older priests are pressed to delay retirement while younger priests commonly assume responsibility for leading parishes soon after ordination. Many young pastors desire assignments to parishes without schools and their attendant challenges.

An authentically Catholic school assists parents in their charge to prepare children for life on earth and life in heaven. Nothing could be more important, and we all need to be

reminded of this on a consistent basis. If Catholic schools are indeed the most effective ways to assist parents in their duty to educate in faith, pastors have a special responsibility to proclaim this truth and do what they can to encourage and enable families to attend.

Yet how frequently and effectively do pastors use the pulpit to encourage and challenge parents, indeed the entire faith community, to fulfill to the best of their ability the promises they made when their children were baptized?

Over time, the persistent support of pastors from the pulpit, the bulletin, and the parking lot is essential to enflame a renewed commitment to Catholic education among more lay men and women. With so many Catholic schools struggling financially, pastors must appeal earnestly to Catholics of all generations to invest in them through their time, talent, and treasure. The life-giving nourishment that parishioners receive from purposeful service and support of parochial schools will also strengthen their communal and spiritual bond with the parish community. Ultimately, we encourage pastors to see robust Catholic schools as opportunities to enhance the vitality of parish life for everyone.

How often have we heard claims that the parish subsidizes the school? From another perspective, which views Catholic schools as the best investment the Church has ever made, one might respond that schools often subsidize parishes by forming and inspiring a new generation of Catholic families. We recommend concerted efforts to move beyond the misleading language of subsidy. There exists an elective affinity between strong parishes and strong Catholic schools. Pastors without schools should be invited to challenge their parishioners to support Catholic schools as well. The only true financial subsidy in regards to Catholic schools goes to this country's taxpayers, who save billions of dollars annually that would otherwise have to be applied to public education.

PARISH EVENTS

LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULING TIME

All Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers and Gift Bearers scheduling will be done on February 10th. We will need your scheduling requests no later than Wednesday February 7th. The new period covers from the Sunday after Ash Wednesday [2/25] to the Sunday before Memorial Day [5/27]. You can leave a message for Ginny at 651-222-2867 or send an e-mail. NOTE: the new e-mail is: GBD1252@comcast.net please indicate Liturgy Schedule in the subject of your e-mail.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SIGN-UP - WEEKDAYS OF LENT:

If you are a Lector or Communion Minister, please check out the counter in the main Sacristy this weekend. Sign-up Sheets are there for each of our weekday Lenten liturgies. Feel free to be "generous" in your volunteerism!

MEN'S CLUB SUPER BOWL PARTY TODAY!

The St. Matthew's Men's Club is hosting their annual Super Bowl Party today, February 4th, at 5:00 PM in the Social Hall. Watch the game and those great commercials on an 8 foot by 12 foot screen. Everyone is welcome to attend! There will be activities for children and cribbage for the adults. Food, snacks, and refreshments will be served. Adult admission is \$10.00, children, 13-18 \$5.00 and children under 13 are free.

LEISURE CLUB VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

Join the Leisure Club on Wednesday, February 14 at 1:30 PM in the social hall to celebrate Valentine's Day.

COFFEE HOUR AFTER BOTH SUNDAY MASSES

Coffee hour is being served by St. Matthew's School. Welcome back and thanks. All are welcome to stop by for a hot cup of coffee, good things to eat and fellowship. Treats are welcome and helpers are needed to staff future coffee hours too. Contact John at 651-221-0871

EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS



KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP—FEBRUARY 15

Do you have a child who will be ready for Kindergarten in September? Do you know of a family looking for Kindergarten for their child? Take this opportunity to check us out! Join us on Thursday, February 15 at 9:00 AM or 7:00 PM in the Kindergarten Room. And spend some time exploring our classroom, discuss the curriculum, check our new mobile computer lab. Meet the administrator, teachers and staff. Registration materials will be available. Please call the school (651-224-6912) and tell us which session you plan to attend.

SOCK DRIVE FOR LISTENING HOUSE

Once again we are honoring Sister Colleen by collecting socks for Listening House. A worker told us that their clients are men who need white athletic or tube socks, outdoor work gloves or mittens, and any kind of personal care items such as tooth brushes and shavers. She said that they have more than enough hats and clothing. I just came in from walking my dog; it was 10 degrees. As I sit here in my warm house I know have very fortunately I am. If you can identify with me or imagine what it is like to be homeless or jobless, could you please contribute an item or two to our Sock Drive. We have a box by the Scrip table for your donation. We will be collecting your contributions through the last weekend of February.

MINISTRY FAIR PARTICIPANTS

If any contact person for a group wishing to participate in the Ministry Fair has not received a registration for, please contact Sister Joanna Ilg at 651-222-1706 or 651-655-9997 by February 7. It would be great to have every group represented! The goal of the fair is to provide the entire community with an opportunity to witness the gospel message as lived out in St. Matthew's parish.

ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Our February meeting will be Tuesday, February 13, at 12:30 in the afternoon in the Social Hall. We will serve a lunch of soup, salad, and dessert. To make a reservation, please call Beth or Diane.

FUNERAL LUNCHEON SERVERS

For many years only members of the Rosary Society served the funeral luncheons. This group has now expanded to include anyone--women or men--willing to help. Because of winter vacations, weather, and illness, we need to increase our list of volunteers. If you could occasionally lend a hand, please call Eileen Norton or the Parish Center.

BLANKET DRIVE THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations of both money and blankets. Overall we collected 101 blankets. Because of the wonderful amount of money donations, 17 used blankets were washed and dried and the money left over was used buy 18 more blankets that were on sale at Target. Thank you to everyone for helping this drive have been such a successful project. Andrew Heitzinger

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Our Community Slat Board regularly posts information that celebrates community and offers opportunities for service, education, and spiritual growth. Check out the table under the Slat Board for even more opportunities for enrichment -- please take what interests you and share with others. Remember, if you would like to contribute an item to the Slat Board, it must be submitted to the Parish Office first.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday 12:00 PM, MC	February 4 Baptism
Monday 3:00 PM, SH 6:45 PM, XC	February 5 Loaves and Fishes Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, MC	February 6 Loaves and Fishes First Reconciliation Class
Wednesday 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, SC 7:00 PM, SH	February 7 St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes Religious Education Class, Grades 1-10 Men's Club Board Meeting
Thursday 3:00 PM, SH 5:00 PM, MC 7:00 PM, MC	February 8 Loaves and Fishes Youth Choir Adult Choir
Friday	February 9
Saturday 10:00 AM, SC 5:00 PM, MC	February 10 Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Rosary Society Sock Collection for Listening House
Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM, MC 10:30 AM, MC 4:00 PM, MC 5:00 PM, CH 5:45 PM, SH 6:45 PM, PC	February 11 Rosary Society Sock Collection for Listening House Scout Sunday Confirmation Class Confirmation Mass Confirmation Dinner Parish Council Meeting

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

In today's readings, both Isaiah and Peter hear the call of God and feel themselves unworthy. But, be assured by the Lord, both answer and follow. Do I hear the Lord asking, "Whom shall I send?" Am I prepared to answer "Here I am. Send me!"?

Prayer: [Remember that the parish chapel is open for visits and prayer each week day from 6:00AM to 6:00PM.] [witness from stewardship envelope:] morning and evening prayers daily; praying the rosary daily; [different parishioners:] 15 min; 2 hrs; 7 hrs; 10 hrs in prayer during the past week. Thank you for the witness and the encouragement to pray regularly and to acknowledge that.

Service: [witness from stewardship envelope:] visited persons with mental disabilities at a center; visiting the sick; volunteered to count money; spend 30 hours volunteer this week; serve on parish liturgy committee; minister as a lector and communion minister. Please receive the same thanks for serving regularly and acknowledging that. Our parish grows because each of us ministers.

Sharing: [witness from stewardship envelope:] Last week-end—the 5th of the month—\$7,667 was given in the three usual ways: envelopes, plate, and electronic. The budget, fiscal year to date, is \$344,100. Stewardship contributions have been: \$291,724. Thank you.

Young people's stewardship: A few of them wrote about the time they spent in prayer everyday, examples of time spent in service this week were helping with household chores such as washing dishes, vacuuming, and cleaning rugs. Contributions by the young people of the parish : \$8.15

Parish e-mail list: if you'd like to join the e-mail list of parishioners—to receive parish information and the notification of deaths of parishioners, etc., please call John at the parish office or e-mail him: administrator@st-matts.org.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of February 4, 2007

Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11
 Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Mk 6:53-56
 Tuesday: Gn 1:20—2:4a/Mk 7:1-13
 Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Mk 7:14-23
 Thursday: Gn 2:18-25/Mk 7:24-30
 Friday: Gn 3:1-8/Mk 7:31-37
 Saturday: Gn 3:9-24/Mk 8:1-10
 Next Sunday: Jer 17:5-8/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/ Lk 6:17, 20-26

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 *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
 Child Care Center 651-224-1450
 Liturgy and Music Voicemail.....651-310-0830

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	Larry Sachi
Nicole Johnson	John Sekevitch
Connie Aligada	Sister Joanna Illg
Lucus Ecker	Mark Thomford
Sheila Brunelle	Stephen Adrian

Committee Chairs

Finance.....
 Education Advisory Richard Dunn