

The Community of St. Matthew



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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

The Christmas Season is ended and we are but 85 days from the Feast of Easter. When I was younger older people told me that “the older you get, the quicker time seems to pass”. I didn’t understand that; and I still don’t. Although I can testify that for me time seems to race along.

And yet, there is always 24 hours in a day and seven days in a week and fifty-two weeks in a year. So, time is constant in its passing – it is my perceptions that are changing.

Time is one of the universal qualities embracing all material beings. We live in process – we do not get from point A to point C without passing through point B. History is no more than the “events of time”.

All three monotheistic religions – Islam, Judaism and Christianity – place the action of God for creation “in time”. Other religious traditions and the religions of the ancients placed God outside of time and distant from human history.

For monotheistic religions God is an actor in human history – in fact God is THE actor in human history – human history is configured by the action of God, and for men and women of faith human history makes sense only in light of God.

For Jews and Muslims the Spirit of God is moving and active in history – the hand of God is a rescuing hand, a chastening hand, a reconciling hand for Judaism; the Spirit of God intervenes and provides Islam with revelation and truth through the agency of Muhammad. For Christians, not only in the Spirit of God poured out in human history, but the very person of God – the Son of God – becomes human and inserts Himself physically and personally into human history.

Thus, a human society without the acknowledgement and awareness of God is a contradiction.

When the West claims to be a post-Christian, secular world it deludes itself and uproots itself. The action of God in history is not dependant on human acknowledgement, but human beings degrade themselves when they turn their back on the truth of the Lord of History.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL COLLECTION

This is the weekend for the annual collection for Our Lady of Good Counsel Free Cancer Home, sponsored by St. Matthew’s Rosary Society/CCW. Donated items may be left in the side room at the front entrance of the church after each Mass. Rosary Society members will be at the doors of the church after each Mass to accept monetary donations. Checks may be made out directly to “Good Counsel Home.” Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

SUPER BOWL PARTY

The St. Matthew’s Men’s Club is hosting their annual Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 4th, at 5 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. Questions, call Tim, 651-450-4975

FAREWELL TO CHRISTMAS!

Thank you to all the folks -- adults & children -- who stayed after to take Christmas out of the church on Sunday. Once again, it was a plague of locusts -- by 12:30 the space was stripped clean. All that was left were stray pine needles & a memory. Some of the action was caught on film & is posted on our picture board at the main entrance. Unfortunately a lot of the busiest -- action & people packed -- work is not pictured because we had no one acting as the official "community camera minister". Be sure to check the back of this week’s worship aid for more information regarding this valuable ministry. **ALSO** we want to thank the school for the beautiful wooden stable that housed our Adult Crèche this year. The rough hewn stable was built by a school family & captures the rustic simplicity that is the Franciscan origin of the Christmas nativity scene.

COFFEE HOUR AFTER BOTH SUNDAY MASSES

Coffee hour this weekend is being served by the Elizondo Family featuring Tony, Jeanine, Lauren and fiancé Ed – 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



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Parents and students preparing for First Communion will have class this Tuesday, January 16 at 6:30 PM in the chapel. This is a mandatory class, if you do not attend this class you will not be able to make your First Communion this spring.

If you are unable to attend, please call Kathy Goldenstein at 651-455-8683. You will have an opportunity to sign up for First Communion dates at this class. Please complete the first two chapters of your books before class.

ARBY'S/S'BARRO NIGHT—THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

Join friends and family at Arby's this Thursday night, January 18, after you place your order tell them you are from St. Matthew's and the school will receive 20% of your total. Hope to see you there.

ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE—SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2007

St. Matthew's School will celebrate Catholic Schools Week with an open house on Sunday, January 28 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Stop in and visit with teachers and staff, view the classrooms, enjoy a treat and celebrate our school. For more information call the school office at 651-224-6912.

LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULING TIME AGAIN:

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.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE FOR LIFE

Monday, January 22 from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the Cathedral. Archbishop Flynn and Pastor Mark Herringshaw of North Heights Lutheran Church will preach. For more information please call the Archdiocese Respect Life Office at 651-291-4515.

THANK YOU

On behalf of all religious women and men throughout the country, I would like to say "Thank You" to all the members of St. Matthew's Parish who so generously gave to the Retirement Fund for Religious Collection in December. Fortunately, my community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, is one of the lucky recipients of this collection. For your graciousness in assisting all us, we are most grateful. For some of you, perhaps, your favorite teacher is among those in our health care center who is reaping the fruits of the rewards that you have given. If you are searching for that loved person, give us a call, 222-1706, and we will help you find them. These sisters will be delighted to hear from you.

- Sister Virginia Bieren

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NEXT WEEK

The January Parish Council meeting will be Sunday, January 21 at 6:45 PM in the parish center.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions may be found on the monthly calendar available in the back of church.

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday 4:00 PM, MC 5:00 PM, CH 5:45 PM, CH	January 14 Confirmation Class Confirmation Mass Confirmation Dinner
Monday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 6:45 PM, XC	January 15 LifeLine Screening Loaves and Fishes Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, CH	January 16 Loaves and Fishes First Communion Class
Wednesday 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 5:00 PM, PC	January 17 St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday 3:00 PM, SH 4:00-8:00 PM 5:00 PM, MC 6:30 PM, SC 7:00 PM, MC	January 18 Loaves and Fishes Arby's/S'Barro Night Youth Choir Girl Scout Troop 163 Meeting Adult Choir
Friday	January 19
Saturday 9:00 AM, PC	January 20 Centering Prayer
Sunday 4:00 PM, SC 6:45 PM, PC	January 21 Cub Scout Pack Meeting 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 second reading, St. Paul tells the Corinthians [and us] that all of our gifts are from God and that they are given, not for ourselves alone, but for the common good. But the generosity of God knows no limits—the miracle at Cana reminds us that whenever we faithfully do as God asks, He can change our gifts of water into wine.

Prayer: Let us use the observation of Martin Luther King's birthday on Monday as a prodder for prayer [and action?] for non-violent methods for addressing societal needs. What are the needs and who are the people that we need to stand with, hand-in-hand?

Service: One parishioner indicated—on the stewardship envelope—that 29 hours were spent in service during the past week. Two things: that's an admirable amount of service time in a week; it's a model for all of us to actively reflect on how we are living our lives.

Sharing: Thank you for \$11,798: envelope users; plate givers; those using electronic means. That amount is above even the budget that was set last June. To date: budget is \$310,800; actual is \$467,789—we are 33.56% behind budget.

Beside "regular Sunday income" these amounts were given: \$969 in school collection; \$461 in holyday envelopes; and \$212 in "initial" envelope. Thanks to each parishioner for all that has been given, to whatever fund.

Electronic giving: Now might be the time for you to begin donating by electronic transfer. The process is very simple; please call the parish office.

Young People's Stewardship. Thanks to those youth and children who have begun to use their envelopes. Treasure: \$2.00-Youth and \$9.20-Children. A few of them wrote about the time they spent in prayer thanking God for "food, family and friends" and "all living things". Another wrote about how they were of service to a neighbor.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of January 14, 2007

Sunday: Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11
 Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Mk 2:18-22
 Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Mk 2:23-28
 Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Mk 3:1-6
 Thursday: Heb 7:25—8:6/Mk 3:7-12
 Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Mk 3:13-19
 Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Mk 3:20-21
 Next Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/1 Cor 12:12-30
 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

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