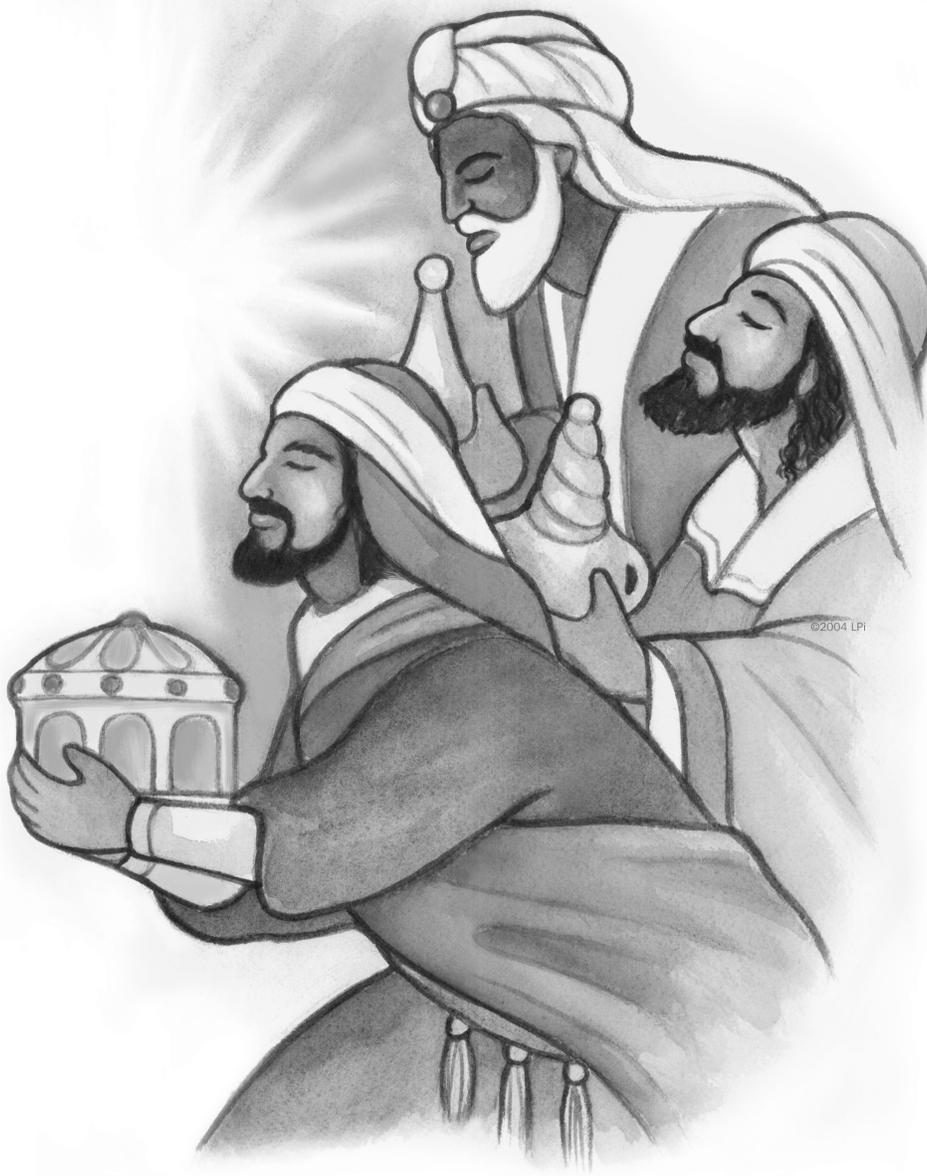


The Community of St. Matthew



EPIPHANY

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

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

In the United States, anti-immigration views have a long history. For a while Benjamin Franklin was hostile to Germans in colonial Pennsylvania. In 1798 the Alien and Sedition Acts limited the ability of immigrants from France and Ireland to gain full political rights, This became a major political issue in the 1800 election.

Nativism gained its name from the "Native American" parties. It impacted politics in mid-19th century United States because of the large inflows of immigrants from cultures that were markedly different from the existing American culture.

Nativist movements included the Know Nothing or American Party of the 1850s, the Immigration Restriction League of the 1890s, the anti-Asian movements in the West, resulting in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the "Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907" by which Japan's government stopped emigration to the U.S.

Throughout our history the question of immigration has smoldered below the surface of our social fabric.

Most recently, for the past thirty years, since 1979, our nation has studied, discussed, debated and argued about what must be the framework for comprehensive immigration reform.

While the immigration debate to date has focused on the economic, legal, and social/cultural aspects of the issue, it is ultimately a humanitarian and moral issue.

Our nation requires an immigration system that marries legal immigration with our long-term economic needs, the principle of family unity, and basic human rights. This will help restore the rule of law to our immigration system. Now, our immigration system accomplishes none of these goals.

Key elements that must be addressed in any immigration reform legislation:

1. **Bring the undocumented population in this country out of the shadows** and give them a chance, over time, to achieve permanent residency and citizenship.

2. **Preserve family unity** by strengthening family-based immigration.

3. **Create legal avenues for migration**, so that migrant workers, who labor in many important industries in our nation, are able to enter the country legally and in a safe and orderly fashion.

4. Give immigrants **their day in court** by restoring due process protections removed in 1996 legislation.

5. Work with neighboring countries and the international community to address the **root causes of migration**, so that immigrants and their families ultimately can remain in their home countries and support their families in dignity.

Immigration has economic, social, and legal aspects which must be addressed in any reform legislation, yet immigration is ultimately a humanitarian issue.

Immigration laws ultimately must be judged by how they impact the basic dignity and God-given human rights of the human person.

I hope that in this important debate we keep the discourse "civil" and refrain from labeling and de-humanizing our brothers and sisters or scapegoating them for unrelated economic or social challenges we face.

The goal must be to lead our nation toward a humane and just immigration system which both restores the rule of law and respects the inherent human dignity of the person.

This weekend there are post cards available in the back of church and in the social hall that allow us to send a message to our senators and congress persons to be mindful of this goal.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation class is on January 10th. Class is at 4:00 PM in the church, followed with mass at 5:00 PM in the chapel, and a light supper after mass. Any questions please call the school office, 651-224-6912.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Thanks to everyone who has been collecting Box Tops for Education. St. Matthew's Home and School recently received a check for \$747.70 from our October turn in. Thanks to Tami Acesor for preparing our collection and sending it off. Keep saving, our next turn in date will be in March. You can turn in Box tops in the container in the entry way of the church or drop them off at school during regular school hours. Thanks for the continued support of the programs of St. Matthew's School.

WE ARE ALL ONE

There will be a Faith action supporting immigration detainees, their families, elected officials, jail officials & workers, and comprehensive immigration reform. It will take place at the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center, 425 Grove St., St. Paul on Sunday, January 3, 2010 (and the first Sunday of every month), 2:30-3:00 PM. For more information contact the Interfaith Coalition on Immigration: interfaithonimmigration@gmail.com

OUTREACH WITH THE SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

The East Side Learning Center (ESLC) is in need of volunteer tutors to provide one-on-one tutoring in reading to students in grades K-4. Volunteers receive initial orientation and on-going training! They are provided with lesson plans and materials for each tutoring session. Volunteers are only required to tutor one hour a week from January to May. Last semester, members from St. Matt's church help tutor 23 children! The ESLC is located at Johnson, Bruce Vento, North End, and St. Matthew's Elementary. Tutoring takes place in the mornings 9-10 am Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at St. Matt's. Training for new volunteers will take place on January 7th (10-noon), January 13th (4-6pm), and January 14th (10-noon) at Johnson Elementary. For more information, contact Ben Stiemsma at (651) 793-7331 or ben.stiemsma@spps.org.



THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	January 3
Monday	January 4
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:45 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
7:00 PM, PC	Liturgy Committee
Tuesday	January 5
2:00-6:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Wednesday	January 6
1:00-6:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
2:45 PM, MC	Children's Choir
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
3:30 PM, PC	Finance Committee
6:30 PM, SC	Religious Education, Grades 1-10
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
Thursday	January 7
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:30 PM, PC	Parish Council
Friday	January 8
Saturday	January 9
Sunday	January 10
4:00 PM, MC	Confirmation Class

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

The three kings in today's Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their richest gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will I go and what will I offer to do homage to this newborn King and Savior?

Sharing December 20: \$8,188 was given in the four usual ways [electronically included both weekly and those who are monthly on the 20th]. Thank you. December 27: \$6,639—electronic is only from those who have money transferred weekly [\$628]. Thanks. Total given for 26 weekends: \$233,982 is about \$9,400 behind budget; only \$3,237 behind last year at this same time.

As well: total Christmas giving for two weeks: \$11,813. Thank you; \$977 for the poor [after services of forgiveness]; another \$246 for Religious Retirement; \$230 for food shelf; \$203 in school envelopes; \$110 for Immaculate Conception; \$20 for CCHD. Thanks for each donation.

Service: Helped someone with their shopping... sang in the choir at midnight mass... money counter.

Prayer: Daily scripture reading... rosary and prayers... prayers for those in the cold.

Young People's stewardship: \$3.00, Thank you! They wrote: cleaned the living room... cleaned my room... shoveling.

2010 Calendars are available. Thank you to Jim and Jayne Bradshaw and their business for supplying these for us. There should be one for each household.

2010 Children/Youth envelopes are available. This is a good method to begin stewardship—putting aside a little each week, and bringing the envelope to Church. Children and youth are encouraged to list their time in prayer and their service, too.

2009 'tax' reports of Church contributions will be available by mid-month. In order to save a few trees, etc., the reports will be made available as they are requested [there will NOT be a general mailing]. Remember that your cancelled checks, etc., are better 'proof' to the IRS.

Electronic giving. Thanks to the 58 parish 'families' who are giving through electronic transfer of funds. 18 give a total of \$653 weekly for an annual amount of \$33,956. 40 give monthly or semi-monthly—a total of \$5,785 each month: \$69,420 annually. It's easy to do—start by calling John Riehle at the parish center.

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 and KLT *Shar Lavelle*
 Bookkeeper *Cindy Hoffman*
 Administrative Assistant *Nicole Johnson*
 Dir. Food Service *Donna Jenniges*
 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
 Prayer line 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*

Karen Thompson Georgann Henjum
 Connie Aligada Joyce Osborne
 Jason Delmont Anthony Minus
 Dean Steinbrenner Chris Stevens
 Stephen Adrian David Burrows