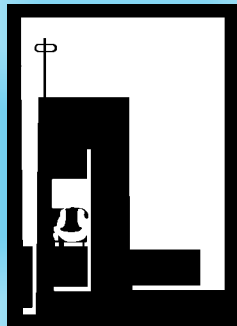
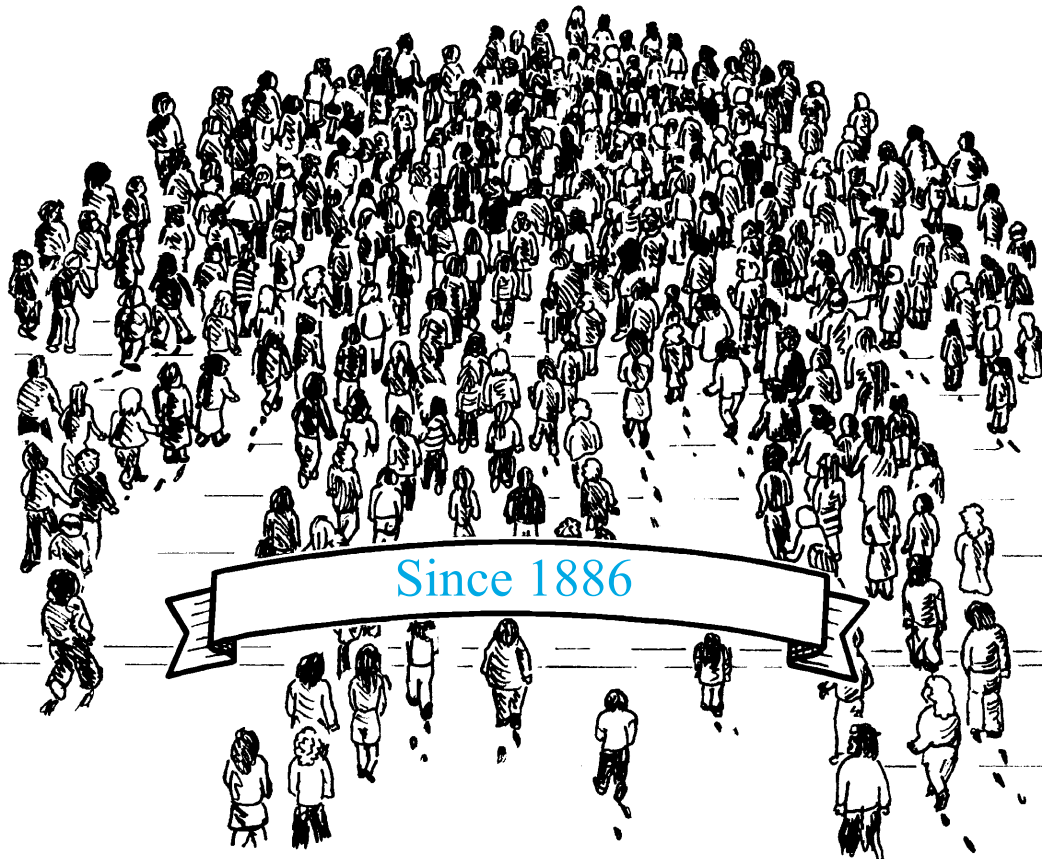


# The Community of St. Matthew



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



## A Rabbi Debates with the Pope. And What Divides Them Is Still Jesus.

St Matthew Community and Visitors:

The rabbi is Jacob Neusner, to whom Benedict XVI dedicates many pages of his latest book. In the judgment of both, the disputes between Judaism and Christianity should not conceal, but rather bring to light their respective claims to truth

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian  
Pastor

My argument with the pope  
By Jacob Neusner

In the Middle Ages rabbis were forced to engage with priests in disputations in the presence of kings and cardinals on which is the true religion, Judaism or Christianity. The outcome was predetermined. Christians won; they had the swords.

But in the post-WW II era, disputations gave way to the conviction that the two religions say the same thing and the differences between them are dismissed as trivial.

My book, "A Rabbi Talks with Jesus", was one contemporary exercise of disputation, and now, in 2007, the pope in his new book "Jesus of Nazareth" in detail has met the challenge point-by-point. Just imagine my amazement when I heard that a Christian reply is fully exposed in pope Benedict XVI's reply to "A Rabbi Talks with Jesus" in his "Jesus of Nazareth" chapter four, on the sermon on the Mount.

In "A Rabbi Talks with Jesus" I undertook to take seriously the claim of Jesus to fulfill the Torah and weigh that claim in the balance against the teachings of other rabbis. I explain in a very straightforward and unapologetic way why, if I had been in the Land of Israel in the first century and present at the Sermon on the Mount, I would not have joined the circle of Jesus's disciples. I would have dissented, I hope courteously, I am sure with solid reason and argument and fact.

Where Jesus diverges from the revelation by God to Moses at Mount Sinai that is the Torah, he is wrong, and Moses is right. In setting forth the grounds to this unapologetic dissent, I mean to foster religious dialogue among believers, Christian and Jewish alike.

Jesus claimed to reform and to improve: "You have heard it said... but I say..." We maintain, and I argued in my book, that the Torah was and is perfect and beyond improvement, and the Judaism built upon the Torah and the Prophets and Writings, the originally-oral parts of the Torah written

down in the Mishna, Talmud, and Midrash – that Judaism was and remains God's will for humanity

By that criterion I propose to set forth a Jewish dissent from some important teachings of Jesus. It is a gesture of respect for Christians and honor for their faith. For we can argue only if we take one another seriously. But we can enter into dialogue only if we honor both ourselves and the other. In my imaginary disputation I treat Jesus with respect, but I also mean to argue with him about things he says.

What's at stake here? If I succeed in creating a vivid portrait of the dispute, Christians see the choices Jesus made and will find renewal for their faith in Jesus Christ –but also respect Judaism.

I underscore the choices both Judaism and Christianity confront in the shared Scriptures. Christians will understand Christianity when they acknowledge the choices it has made, and so too Jews, Judaism.

I mean to explain to Christians why I believe in Judaism, and that ought to help Christians identify the critical convictions that bring them to church every Sunday.

Jews will strengthen their commitment to the Torah of Moses – but also respect Christianity. I want Jews to understand why Judaism demands assent – "the All-Merciful seeks the heart," "the Torah was given only to purify the human heart." Both Jews and Christians should find in "A Rabbi Talks with Jesus" the reason to affirm, because each party will locate there the very points on which the difference between Judaism and Christianity rests.

What makes me so certain of that outcome? Because I believe, when each side understands in the same way the issues that divide the two, and both with solid reason affirm their respective truths, then all may love and worship God in peace – knowing that it really is the one and the same God whom together they serve – in difference. So it is a religious book about religious difference: an argument about God.

But now His Holiness has answered my critique in a creative exercise of exegesis and theology. In his "Jesus of Nazareth" the Judeo-Christian disputation enters a new age. We are able to meet one another in a forthright exercise of reason and criticism. The challenges of Sinai bring us together for the renewal of a 2,000 year old tradition of religious debate in the service of God's truth.

Someone once called me the most contentious person he had ever known. Now I have met my match. Pope Benedict XVI is another truth-seeker.

We are in for interesting times.

PARISH EVENTS

FOOD SHELF WEEKEND

Today, please take a grocery bag home with you. These will be distributed by the Food Shelf folks—those parishioners who transport the food to Neighborhood House each week. Please bring it back—full—when you come to Church next weekend.

BE A CONVERSATION PARTNER AT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Do you want to help recent immigrants practice English but don't have a lot of time to commit? Do you want to share about your culture and learn about the culture of others/ Meet once a week with a learner to help them with their conversational English skills. Talk about issues of immigration and resettlement, culture, language, etc. No experience necessary! Only a fluency in English is required to help people speak! Day and evening times available, Monday-Thursday. For more information or to sign up email Emma at [esheppard@macalster.edu](mailto:esheppard@macalster.edu) or call 651-789-2526.

NO ALUMINIUM CAN RECYCLING IN JULY

The Boy Scouts will NOT be collecting aluminum cans in July. Please watch the bulletin for further information regarding aluminum can recycling by the Boy Scouts.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY—SIGN UP THIS WEEKEND

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year that St Matt's has participated in Habitat for Humanity [11 for STB and Mount Calvary] to date the 3 churches have donated 8,320 hours of labor, \$51,000, and countless amounts of baked goodies and other support services. Our week this year is July 16-20. There is still time to sign up this weekend. There is a need for on-site volunteers, food servers, nurses and site hosts. If you have questions before then, please call Ginny Roethler: 222-2867.

For those unable to travel, or pound a nail, there'll be an opportunity to participate—through raising funds for the project. [With the other two churches we are expected to contribute \$6,000.]

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—ASSUMPTION MASS AND PICNIC

Join the parish on Wednesday, August 15 at Cherokee Park for the Annual Assumption Mass and Picnic. Watch bulletin for more details as the day approaches..

THIS WEEK AT  
SAINT MATTHEW

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>June 24</b>
10:30 AM, MC	Baptism
12:00 PM, CH	Baptism
12:30 PM, CH	Baptism
<b>Monday</b>	<b>June 25</b>
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:45 PM, SC	Boy Scout Meeting
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>June 26</b>
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
7:00 PM, SC	Boy Scout Committee Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>June 27</b>
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
5:00 PM, PC	Finance Committee Meeting
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>June 28</b>
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
<b>Friday</b>	<b>June 29</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>June 30</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 1</b>
12:00 PM, CH	Baptism
12:30 PM, CH	Baptism

**Abbreviations:**

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

## STEWARDSHIP

“Who do you say I am?” Jesus asks Peter in today’s Gospel. Does my use of the gifts and talents entrusted to me accurately reflect *my* answer to that same question? How will I deny myself, take up my cross, and follow in His steps?

**Prayer: Invitations and modeling:** Did a prayerful nature walk; prayed for victims of accidents; prayed for two sick relatives; prayed for 2 hours in the chapel on First Friday; participated in a weekly prayer group.

**Service:** Many parishioners choose a ministry to dedicate a good amount of time each month or year to serving in that capacity. Few choose one that involves EVERY Saturday afternoon and EVERY Sunday morning. \$CRIP has been available to parishioners after each weekend Mass because of the commitment, passion and presence of Tim Nowak. Thanks to Tim, and to all those who stick with a ministry through thick and thin.

**Sharing:** Thanks to all givers [envelope, electronic, plate] for \$8,559 donated last Sunday. The fiscal year total [with only this Sunday left] is \$490,104. That is an average of \$9,616 per Sunday; next year we will budget for \$9,500 income each week.

**Young People’s Stewardship:** \$2.50. Examples of service this week: Helped Nana garden, helped with chores, helped clear table after meals.

## WEEKLY READINGS

### Readings for the Week of June 24, 2007

Sunday: Vigil: Jer 1:4-10/1 Pt 1:8-12/Lk 1:5-17  
 Day: Is 49:1-6/Acts 13:22-26/  
 Lk 1:57-66, 80

Monday: Gn 12:1-9/Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday: Gn 13:2, 5-18/Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday: Gn 15:1-12, 17-18/Mt 7:15-20

Thursday: Gn 16:1-12, 15-16 or 16:6b-12, 15-16/  
 Mt 7:21-29

Friday: Vigil: Acts 3:1-10/Gal 1:11-20/Jn 21:15-19  
 Day: Acts 12:1-11/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/  
 Mt 16:13-19

Saturday: Gn 18:1-15/Mt 8:5-17

Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21/Gal 5:1, 13-18/  
 Lk 9:51-62

## 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. KLT Kids .....*Jennifer Slaten*  
 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

### 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