

The Community of St. Matthew



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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Friends,

As we begin the season of Lent I offer for your reflection a selection from Benedict XVI's Lenten Message to Catholics throughout the world.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian

Pastor

"At the beginning of Lent, which constitutes an itinerary of more intense spiritual training, the Liturgy sets before us again three penitential practices that are very dear to the biblical and Christian tradition - prayer, almsgiving, fasting - to prepare us to better celebrate Easter and thus experience God's power that, as we shall hear in the Paschal Vigil, 'dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy, casts out hatred, brings us peace and humbles earthly pride'. For this year's Lenten Message, I wish to focus my reflections especially on the value and meaning of fasting.

"In our own day, fasting seems to have lost something of its spiritual meaning, and has taken on, in a culture characterized by the search for material well-being, a therapeutic value for the care of one's body. Fasting certainly brings benefits to physical wellbeing, but for believers, it is, in the first place, a 'therapy' to heal all that prevents them from conformity to the will of God. In

1966, Pope Paul VI saw the need to present fasting within the call of every Christian to 'no longer live for oneself, but for Him who loves us and gave Himself for us ... we will also have to live for our sisters and brothers'. Lent could be a propitious time to enter into fasting, so that the authentic and perennial significance of this long held practice may be rediscovered, and thus assist us to mortify our egoism and open our heart to love of God and neighbor, the first and greatest Commandment of the new Law and compendium of the entire Gospel.

"The faithful practice of fasting contributes, moreover, to conferring unity to the whole person, body and soul, helping to grow in intimacy with the Lord. Through fasting and praying, we allow Him to come and satisfy the deepest hunger that we experience in the depths of our being: the hunger and thirst for God.

"At the same time, fasting is an aid to open our eyes to the situation in which so many of our brothers and sisters live. Voluntary fasting enables us to grow in the spirit of the Good Samaritan, who bends low and goes to the help of his suffering brother. By freely embracing an act of self-denial for the sake of another, we make a statement that our brother or sister in need is not a stranger. It is precisely to keep alive this welcoming and attentive attitude towards our brothers and sisters that I encourage the parishes and every other community to intensify in Lent the custom of private and communal fasts, joined to the reading of the Word of God, prayer and almsgiving.

PARISH EVENTS

COFFEE FOR A CAUSE

Coffee hours after both Sunday masses feature the baking talents of St. Matthew's Rosary Society in support of their ongoing ministries. Thanks to the women who serve. Volunteers are needed to staff future Coffee Hours too with open dates running from 3/29/09 on. It's a great way to generate awareness and support for your group or a cause Thanks to all who supported last week's C4aC benefiting Minnesota Labourers Vocation Society. \$100.00 was raised.

Worship at Saint Matthew

Season of Lent

Sunday Liturgy

Saturday: 5 pm

Sunday: 8 & 10:30 am

Weekday Liturgy

Monday: 6:45 am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 6:45 am & 12:10 pm

Friday: 6:45 am & 5:15 pm

Sacrament of Penance

Tuesday: 7:15 am

Saturday 4 pm

Stations of the Cross

Monday: 7 pm

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS

ST. MATTHEW PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA FOR MARCH 5, 2009, 6:45 PM

Facilitator: Connie Aligada

Reflection

Public Comment

Approval of minutes

Committee/Task force reports: Outreach: Family Fun night, Casa Guadalupana

Adopt a Room, Liturgy and Spirituality, Educational Formation

Other Business: Overview of Discernment Process for 2009; Ministry fair

Items for next meeting

Adjournment

“As I have done, so you must do.”

Everyone will be invited to participate in the foot washing ritual this Holy Thursday. As a parish we want to build on the power and meaning of the symbolic “12” that have participated in the past. To witness this ritual is significant itself. To join in the action is to open ourselves to a deeper sense of the command of Jesus to do as he did.

To participate is to be more vulnerable than maybe we have been in the past. We can perhaps empathize with Peter’s discomfort when approached by Jesus. His reaction was only complicated by his overreaction, but thankfully, Jesus provided the clarity he needed.

Jesus calls all of us in these holy days to greater depth and clarity of what it means to be his followers by cementing the inseparable relationship of celebrating the Eucharist and serving one another as symbolized through the washing of feet.

Several stations will be set up for the ritual on Holy Thursday. You will be invited forward to have your feet washed. You will then be invited to wash the feet of the next person in a act of humble service. We present ourselves; young and old, broken and whole, joy-filled and struggling, all members of the body of Christ, called to be Christ to each other.

Watching the ritual likely changes us in a moving, faithful way. Participating invites all of us to a deeper experience of Jesus command, “As I have done, so you must do.”

Who said the following; “You shall never wash my feet!”

A.) Peter in the gospel for Holy Thursday in response to Jesus.

B.) People in this parish in response to the gospel for Holy Thursday.

Certainly the answer to the question is “A” but some may also add “B” if they were invited to participate in the foot washing ritual on Holy Thursday here at St. Matthew’s. How would you respond?

FIRST FALL FESTIVAL MEETING

The first Fall Festival meeting will be on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, 6:30 PM in the Social Hall. This is a great volunteer opportunity!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

There is a need for Eucharist Ministers at Marian Center, 200 Earl Street, St. Paul, MN. If you are interested you can contact Doreen Kerkvliet at 651-793-2116. It would be about a two hour commitment on the day of your choice.

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	March 1
9:00 AM, PC	Finance Meeting
Monday	March 2
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:45 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
7:00 PM, MC	Stations of the Cross
Tuesday	March 3
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
12:10 PM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:30 PM, MC	First Communion Class
Wednesday	March 4
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary’s Clinic
12:10 PM, CH	Mass
2:45 PM, MC	Children’s Choir
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
5:00 PM, MC	HummDingers
6:30 PM, SC	Religious Education, Grades 1-10
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
Thursday	March 5
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
12:10 PM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Friday	March 6
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
4:30-7:30 PM, SH	Lenten Fish Fry
5:15 PM, MC	Mass
Saturday	March 7
Sunday	March 8

Abbreviations:

MC – Main Church

CH – Chapel

PC – Parish Center

SH – Social Hall

SC – School

CC – Child Care

XC – Extended Day

STEWARDSHIP

The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. But the bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental obligation arising from the sacrament of Baptism...that people place their gifts, their resources—their very selves—at God's service in and through the Church." Maybe the question is: how baptized am I? in what ways do I demonstrate that?

Sharing Electronic, plate, envelope, and US mail giving this past weekend: \$7,334. Thank you to faithful stewards, regardless of the method of delivering that stewardship. The total is falling behind the budget [-\$12,802], but compared to last year the amount is about the same [\$1,301].

A few other dollars to report: \$63 for fuel; \$9 in initial; and \$6 for foodshelf.

Service: Spending time with a relative who was sick; driving friends to Mass; volunteered for 2 hours this past week. How am I stewarding my talent by being of service?

Prayer: Intercessory prayers for friends and family. Daily rosary...prayer...spiritual reading. Fasting. How am I stewarding my time in prayer?

Reunion Sunday: Remember to invite all your classmates to Reunion Sunday—May 3. Mass, complimentary brunch and a tour of the school. Please RSVP to the parish or the school office. Already we have RSVPs from members of the class of 1929, 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974! Join us!

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of March 1, 2009
 Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
 Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/ Mt 25:31-46
 Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/ Mt 6:7-15
 Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
 Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
 Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
 Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
 Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

©Liturgical Publications Inc.

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..... Shar Lavelle
 Dir. KLT Kids Shar Lavelle
 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
 Prayerline 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

Becky Montgomery Nicole Johnson
 Connie Aligada Anthony Minus
 Jason Delmont Mark Thomford
 Chris Stevens Joyce Osborne
 Stephen Adrian