

# The Community of St. Matthew

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FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT  
**SEEING FAITH**

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

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

On Tuesday, February 26, 2008, a "religion" story appeared on the front page of major newspapers and as a piece on televised news. The story was the stuff of radio talk shows, religion news blogs and NPR provided some lengthy analysis.

The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life did a survey of 35,000 American adults last summer – **The U. S. Religious Landscape Survey.**

Evangelical Protestants now outnumber Catholics by 26.3 percent (59 million) to 24 percent (54 million) of the population.

"There is no question that the demographic balance has shifted in past few decades toward evangelical churches," said Greg Smith, a research fellow at the Pew Forum. "They are now the mainline of American Protestantism."

The traditional mainline Protestant churches, which in 1957 constituted about 66 percent of the populace, now count just 18 percent as adherents.

Although one in three Americans are raised Roman Catholic, only one in four adults describe themselves as such, despite the huge numbers of immigrants swelling American churches, researchers said.

"Immigration is what is keeping [US Catholicism] afloat," said John Green, a Pew senior fellow. "If everyone who was raised Catholic stayed Catholic, it'd be a third of the country."

Those who leave Catholicism mostly either drop out of church entirely or join Pentecostal or evangelical Protestant churches, Pew Forum director Luis Lugo said. One out of every 10

evangelicals is a former Catholic, he said, with Hispanic Catholics leaving at higher rates; 20 percent of them end up in evangelical or Pentecostal churches.

"It's a desire for a closer experience of God," he said. "It's not so much disenchantment with the teachings of the Catholic Church but the pull of what they see in Pentecostalism."

More than 16 percent of American adults say they are not part of any organized faith, which makes the unaffiliated the country's fourth largest "religious group."...

I have often said that religious faith is deeply personal, but never private. The life of faith is rooted in a community and relationships. To strengthen the community and deepen the relationships is to build faith.

Bring someone to church with you. Invite a family member, neighbor, friend, co-worker to join you at Sunday Mass. Introduce them to your friends and fellow church members. Invite them to join you in a church related activity. The work of evangelization is the work of each and every one of us.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian  
Pastor

## PARISH EVENTS

### COFFEE SUNDAY

Greetings. Coffee Hour after both Sunday masses is being served by Esther Snaza; Jeanne, Barry and Julianna Maanum - thanks. All are welcome to the Social Hall for a hot cup of coffee, good things to eat and conversation.. People are getting together after Sunday services and visitors see an active parish community. A key component in keeping this going is people stepping up to volunteer. Step by step instructions are provided on how to host a coffee hour you don't have to donate money as your time is your gift to St. Matts. Call John @ 651-221-0871 or e-mail law@armita.net to sign up. Open dates are as follows: 04/06/08, 04/13/08, 04/20/08, 04/27/08, 05/11/08, 05/18/08, 05/25/08 and 06/01/08.

### LENTEN FISH FRY

Every Friday from February 8 through March 14. All you can eat Fish Fry (fried or baked) from 4:30 to 7:30. Baked Potato, vegetable, roll, salad bar, milk, coffee, and dessert are included. Adults \$8.75, children 4-13 \$5.00, under 4 free. Special senior hour from 4-5 pm \$7.50. Our 19<sup>th</sup> annual Lenten Fish Fry.

### PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact Marge at 651-455-6886 or Judy at 651-686-5463 with your request for the prayer chain. The information that you give to us will be treated confidentially.

### REMINDER!

It's time to Spring Forward! Daylight Savings Time begins on March 9, so don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour.

## EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS

### A LENTEN RETREAT

*“How Big is Your God?”*: The Loyola Spirituality Center is sponsoring a weekend retreat led by an internationally recognized Ignatian scholar, charismatic teacher, and author, Paul Coutinho, a Jesuit Priest from the Bombay province of India who has a doctorate in historical theology from St. Louis University. Fr. Coutinho credits spiritual teachers and friends from many traditions for deepening his concept of the Divine. The retreat will be held Friday, March 7 (7-9 p.m.) and Saturday, March 8 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) at the Church of St. Peter in Mendota, with a Mass scheduled at 8 a.m. on Saturday. The cost for both days is \$30 (or \$10 for Friday only; \$25 for Saturday only). Call 651-641-0008 (or go to [www.loyolaspiritualitycenter.org](http://www.loyolaspiritualitycenter.org)) for more information.

### 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The 40 Days for Life campaign in the Twin Cities continues to grow and build. We are at the halfway point. Last Saturday, more than 100 people came to HealthPartners' Regions Hospital (on Jackson Street just east of the State Capitol), Keeping silent vigil and praying ardently for an end to the abortions which take place inside this “health care” facility. Group after group, individuals, couples and families have come to “walk the walk” in front of the hospital. Five area churches have either kept or will be keeping whole 24-hour periods of vigil and prayer. Be a visible expression of God's love by participating in this dynamic campaign! More info at [www.plam.org](http://www.plam.org)

### CONFUSED CATHOLIC? INACTIVE CATHOLIC? ALIENATED CATHOLIC?

An Invitation to Consider Catholics Coming Home. If you've been away from the Church or are drifting away from it, if you've been hurt by the Church, or are confused and angry because of your Catholic experience, please consider this invitation to come and talk with us. Six Tuesday evenings, April 1—May 6, 2008, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Basilica of Saint Mary, sixteenth at Hennepin, Minneapolis, Basilica School, Room 113. For more info call: Carrie Kemp, *Catholics Coming Home Ministry* at 651-457-5427 or *Basilica of Saint Mary Learning Office* at 612-317-3414.

### HOST FAMILIES NEEDED!!!

Open your heart and home for five weeks this summer to a 10 or 11 year old child from Northern Ireland. Over 4000 Catholic and Protestant boys and girls from Belfast and surrounding communities have experienced the hospitality of families like yours throughout the Program's 35 years of operation. Children selected to participate in the program this summer will arrive in the Twin Cities June 26, 2008 and depart with a lifetime of memories and friendships on August 4, 2008. Call 651-405-1108 or check out our website at [www.cpmi.org](http://www.cpmi.org) to find out how your family can participate in this remarkable program.

### THANK YOU FISH FRY VOLUNTEERS

The Rosary Society officers want to thank everyone who worked at our Fish Fry. We especially want to thank the 3rd graders from Mrs. Marxer's class who set up the entire Social Hall. Thanks to Tim Nowak and the men in the kitchen who prepared and cooked the fish, to the young guys and the not-so-young guys who did all the dishes, and to the clean-up crew who scrubbed the kitchen. Thanks to the Rosary members, their spouses, families and friends who served. It takes many people to put on this dinner, and we are very grateful to all who helped us.

## THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 2</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>March 3</b>
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
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 4</b>
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
12:10 PM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 5</b>
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
9:00 AM, MC	School Mass
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
12:10 PM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
5:00 PM, MC	HummDingers
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
<b>No Religious Education Class</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>March 6</b>
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
12:10 AM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
<b>Friday</b>	<b>March 7</b>
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
4:30-7:30 PM, SH	Fish Fry
5:15 PM, MC	Mass
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 8</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 9</b>
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 blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Who am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?*

Prayer and Service...acknowledging to the community, witnessing for one another and inviting others to join in...

Everyone is encouraged to take membership in the community of Saint Matthew personally and seriously. Perhaps it's obvious that no one can be an impersonal or anonymous member of a community. As the early Christian church was a community—it was called to witness first to each other and then to others—so we are called to such a community. What we do as believers can't stay just "between Jesus and me." We're bound to preach the Gospel by our lives. One of the methods of that preaching is attesting to the good that we are accomplishing in the name of Lord. A practical way to do that in our community is to attest via the weekly envelope. Whether our contributions are given weekly, monthly, or electronically, there is an invitation to use envelopes weekly: recording occasions and times or prayer and service. Others will be thankful for that modeling of Christian life and witness.

Sharing [Reporting this aspect of stewardship is pretty straightforward, though the numbers do not take into account the sacrifices that have been made.] \$9018 was given last week in the plate, envelopes and electronically. Thanks to all for this witness of stewardship. The fiscal year-to-date budget is \$330,100; collections have totaled \$317,165.

Also thanks and acknowledgement for other money given: \$50 for holydays; \$100 for fuel [to date we have paid about \$45,000 in fuel/electric costs]; and \$110 in school envelopes. Children's Giving: \$3.25

Kitchen equipment. The dishwasher should be arriving within a week. Thanks to everyone who has helped fund these replacements. Many, many folks benefit.

Annual Catholic Appeal. Please remember to respond to Archbishop Flynn's appeal. The dollars will be used well by the Archdiocese and 25% of all donations will be returned to St. Matthew's for our educational programs. [The archdiocese will have a phone follow-up for non-responders—and no money will be returned to the parishes from that part of the effort.]

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 .....*Cherri Trapp*  
 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	Sister Joanna Illg
Jason Delmont	Mark Thomford
Tony Palmer	Sheila Brunelle
Joyce Osborne	Stephen Adrian