

# The Community of St. Matthew

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



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FOURTH SUNDAY *of* LENT  
**SEEING FAITH**

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Friends:

I write this prior to Benedict XVI leaving for Africa. You will read this as he is about to complete his visit. My assumption is that his visit will receive scant TV and news paper coverage because Africa is not a high priority for Western countries.

Yet there are important reasons for this trip, and far potential far reaching consequences. A reporter who covers the Vatican, John Allen, suggests the following:

Africa is the future: The single most important Catholic story of the 20th century was the shift in the church's center of gravity from North to South. In 1900, just 25 percent of the Catholic population lived in the southern hemisphere. Today that figure stands at 66 percent, or two-thirds of the world's 1.1 billion Catholics, and by mid-century the southern share is projected to be 75 percent.

While in Cameroon, Benedict XVI will meet a delegation of African Muslims, offering his first comments outside Rome about Christian-Islamic relations since his 2006 trip to Turkey. In Angola, he'll meet with movements involved in fighting for women's rights. The Angola portion of the trip also takes Benedict to the world's eighth largest oil-producing nation, pumping out 1.9 million barrels per day of high-quality crude.

Benedict and Barack can do business: When it comes to Africa, the pope and the president share a common concern for peace, development, and social justice; moreover, they each bring unique resources to making

things happen. Catholicism's massive 20th century gains across Africa have generated important political and social capital, while Obama's biography and popularity make him virtually the uncrowned king of Africa. Together, the pope and the president might be able to move the ball in terms of cajoling the international community, as well as African leaders themselves, to get their act together.

Benedict's trip offers a window of opportunity to tell Africa's story, both its heartbreak and its heroism; indeed, part of the reason popes make these trips is to shine a spotlight on forgotten places and peoples.

As Auguste Comte reputedly once said, "Demography is destiny." The tone in the Catholic Church increasingly will be set by bishops, theologians, and lay activists from the south, especially from Africa.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian  
Pastor

## PARISH EVENTS

### COFFEE FOR A CAUSE

Coffee hours after both Sunday masses are hosted and served by the Men's Club in support of St. Matthew's Hot Lunch Program. 200 meals are cooked and served each school day for our students. This program is directed by Alice Schletty and staffed by folks who work in a direct way for the well being of young people - thanks. All are invited to the Social Hall for hot coffee, treats and time together. Thanks to all who supported last week's C4aC benefiting the Neighborhood House Food Shelf. \$96.00 was raised.

### MARCH 500 WINNERS

1st place-2950: Arlene Kempe & Jean St. Martin;  
2nd Place-2880: Gayle Stelter & Linda Brooks.

### A THANK YOU FROM THE ROSARY SOCIETY

The Rosary Society worked at the Fish Friday on Friday the 13th. We could not have done it without the help of many people. Thanks members, your children, grandchildren, and friends for serving the food and cleaning the Social Hall. Thanks to the Men's Club for cooking all the fish and cleaning the kitchen. Thanks Denise, Joyce, and Mary for food preparation and for working with all our volunteers. Thanks to the St. Matthew's fourth graders who set up the entire Social Hall and to other students who helped serve. We served 417 dinners. The next Fish Fry benefits the Romanian children, and volunteers are needed.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2008

Financial statements are available for pick up or mailing. These may be helpful as tax returns are prepared. Please call the parish office if you would like yours. Remember that your records are more "official" than is the Church statement.

EDUCATION AND  
FAITH FORMATION NEWS

CULVER'S NIGHT

Don't forget the next Culver's Night is Tuesday, March 24th from 4-9 at the West St. Paul location. We receive 10% of ALL profits. There is no need to say you are with St. Matthew's, so SPREAD THE WORD!!

HOLY THURSDAY COLLECTION FOR THE POOR

Unlike other collections throughout the church year, on this holy night we take up a collection that is strictly for the poor. Like last year, we are offering food items as well as money for the poor. We are asking that the worshipping assembly keep their gifts of food and money with them at their seat until it is time to present their gifts at the altar during preparation. There will be a basket present for collecting your gifts of money—your Lenten alms; as well as a designated place in the sanctuary to leave items for our area food shelf. Assistance will be available for those who need help bringing their gifts forward. **Our Eucharist is not complete when our neighbor's table is empty.**

*"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.

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."

INTERFAITH PASSOVER SEDER

Join members and leaders from many faith communities on Sunday, March 29th, 2009 at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave., St. Paul 55105 as we celebrate the 2nd Annual St. Paul Interfaith Network (SPIN) Interfaith Passover Seder as we express the universal longing for freedom, justice and transformation in our lives and in our world through ritual, reading, song, and a shared meal. Gathering and registration: 4:30 PM Seder: 5:00 PM sharp-8:00 PM Cost: \$15, \$20 for a vegetarian dinner. Please pre-register and pre-pay at [www.spacc.org/spin](http://www.spacc.org/spin) or send a check made out to the St. Paul Area Council of Churches, 1671 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105 with "Interfaith Seder in the memo line, attn. Marc Blakesley, by March 24th. Questions? Call 651-789-3877.

NOTICE: CHANGE IN LOCATION

**Knights of Columbus Fr. Lucien Galtier Council no. 4184.** Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month. The next meeting will be held on April 6, 2009 at 7:30 PM at St. Joseph's great room. If you would like to join KoC call Joe Stevens 651-224-8270.

THIS WEEK AT  
SAINT MATTHEW

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 22</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>March 23</b>
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:30 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
7:00 PM, MC	Stations of the Cross
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 24</b>
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
12:10 PM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 25</b>
1:00 PM, MC	Special Friends Mass
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
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>March 26</b>
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
12:10 AM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
<b>Friday</b>	<b>March 27</b>
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
4:30-7:30 PM, SH	Fish Fry
5:15 PM, MC	Mass
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 28</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 29</b>

**Abbreviations:**

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

STEWARDSHIP

All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. “We are truly his handiwork,” says Saint Paul in the second reading, “created in Christ Jesus to lead the life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance.”

Readings when catechumens are present: *The blind man in today’s Gospel 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. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?*

Sharing: \$7,574 was given last weekend. Thank you to each faithful steward. The total given this year: \$337,864 is \$13,786 behind budget; also, this is the first reporting weekend in many weeks when the total is slightly behind last year at this same time; \$1,117.

Service: made phone calls to former neighbors who are not in nursing homes...cooked a meal for a next door neighbor who was ill...helped at a Rosary Society event...counted labels in school...brought communion to three persons who are confined to their home.

Prayer: made effort to attend an extra weekday Mass... made short visits to the chapel to pray for the economy and for those who are jobless...prayed the stations of the cross... participated in a prayer group...participated in the prayer line...daily spiritual reading, mealtime prayer, rosary, and time in prayer.

Young People’s Stewardship: \$4.00 Thank you! They wrote: Cleaned hallway... helped babysit... mealtime prayer... 1 hour in prayer.

2009 Catholic Services Appeal [formerly: Archbishop’s Annual Appeal]. Thanks to the scores of parishioners who have responded. We have received greater than 50% of our goal. Remember that 25% of all pledged and given is returned to the parish; and there will be follow-up phoning.

Fall Festival News: next meeting: April 1 at 6:30PM—social hall. Come, help with decisions about the what and how of the festival [Sept 19-20]. New ideas and new “blood” are welcome.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of March 22, 2009  
 Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21  
 Monday: Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54  
 Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16  
 Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38 (Annunciation)  
 Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47  
 Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
 Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53  
 Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

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  
 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](mailto:parishcouncil@st-matts.org)

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