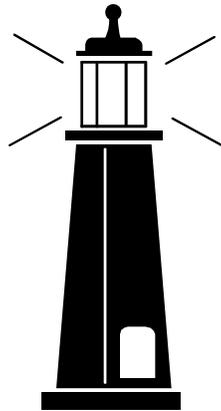


The Community of St. Matthew

Catholic Order of Foresters

A FRATERNAL BENEFIT LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY since 1883

**MATCHING FUNDS
FISH FRY DINNER
FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2004**



Professionally Prepared and Served

Includes: Baked Potato, Vegetable, Salad, Dessert, Milk, Coffee and...

All the Fish you can eat

Serving from 4 to 7 PM

**Catholic Order of Foresters will contribute up to
\$1,500 for this fund raiser to support
St. Matthew's School**

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

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

This reflection on a mid term Lenten correction is provided by the Jesuit Center for Spirituality at Creighton University.

Yours truly,

Stephen Adrian
Pastor

The Midpoint of Lent

What if I'm at the midpoint of Lent and not much is going on?

I began with the best of intentions, but I am not sure what I'm doing or what I want to be doing. Can my Lent be 'rescued'? Can a six week journey be completed in the remaining next two weeks - waiting for my heart to be open? Of course, the answer is "yes." It doesn't take long for God, when we are ready.

How to begin again?

The first step to beginning again has already begun, if I have the desire for something real during Lent. A therapist once said that "we get better when we get tired of not being better." This isn't the same as "guilt." Feeling guilty for not doing much about Lent won't get us very far. What we need is a real desire - a real sense of expectation that God has something for me to hear, to learn, to change, and I want to be ready to listen.

A little desire is enough to shape deeper desires. Once we can say we want to make something of these precious days remaining in Lent, then we can start naming some more specific desires. For some of us, it is obvious. There is a big, glaring self-defeating pattern staring us in the face. Most of the time, however, it takes a little reflection, a bit of honest examination of conscience to really see what is getting in the way of my being a follower of Jesus.

After some reflection, I might admit that there is a streak of stubbornness or impatience or harshness that keeps putting me at odds with people. Perhaps there is an old wound or a fresh experience of hurt or loss that has turned into a festering anger that robs me of simple joys and sorrows or compassion for suffering of others. Maybe I am obsessed with how I look - how others see me - and my choices each day are guided by what will make other people like me, and my mood each day goes up and down depending upon people's response to me. I might somehow know that I'm compensating for some emptiness or loneliness or sadness or insecurity by trying to fill in what is missing with quite temporary satisfaction - over-eating, drinking too much, escaping in sexual fantasy or pornography.

And, maybe a homily or something I read recently made me realize that I really have not paid attention to the needs of the poor - and perhaps I've even taken stands and voted against issues and candidates who stand on the side of the poor. After some reflection, I may just realize I'm not very grateful for what has been given me, and therefore, I'm just

not very happy, generous or free.

Lent begins when I can say "Help me Lord!"

Now I can turn to the Lord, with some real, concrete desires. Now I can practice waking up each morning and naming a desire - while I'm putting on my slippers, or taking a shower or getting dressed: "Lord, it feels so good to be honest with myself before you. Let me know your presence today. Help me face the challenges that will be there today. Give me some more freedom to make different choices, and act on the graces you are giving me, to refrain from escaping, but rather to give myself to loving, as you have loved me. "Imagine all the different prayers like that - one minute long - that would shape our day! With these desires to let God's grace transform me, then I can pause before going to bed each night, and look back through the day to thank God for the places I felt God's presence and help.

Focusing Lent with a Plan

If we have a plan, we are more likely to follow it. That plan can have the following elements, which will give real purpose in vitality to our Lenten experience.

What am I going to give up each day?

This is something I need to fast from, abstain from every day. For most of us it means that whenever we feel the temptation to do something that is a bad pattern, we will recognize it quickly and refrain from doing it. It is basically training in self-discipline, for the purpose of letting God's grace have a chance to work in us. So, if being crabby or impatient with various people throughout my day is my struggle, then each morning I can ask for the grace to give that up today. And, I can practice some response that will replace it. Perhaps I will try to see the other person the way God sees him/her. Perhaps I will imagine some pain or struggle or insecurity that could be the reason that they are annoying me. Perhaps I just need to say something affirming or complementary to the person. Or, if I'm tempted to escape in fantasy throughout the day, I can ask for the grace each morning to live with and embrace the real human beings I live with today.

How can I be generous today?

Almsgiving has been such an important part of Lent. For most of us it involves being more generous to the poor. For some of us, it will mean giving money to the poor for the first time. For others, this may be the time for me to prepare food for a meal program in my city. For some of us, it could mean deciding some simplifying of our food patterns or entertainment, and giving that amount of money saved each week to the poor. It is again, all about, de-selfishing ourselves, so that God can free us to be more comfortable with the graces of gratitude and generosity.

Let's give Lent a new start in the days ahead. God is offering us more than we can ask or imagine.

PARISH EVENTS

CELEBRATING THE TRIDUUM

Please consider participating in one or more of the Triduum liturgies: Holy Thursday's Foot Washing, Holy Thursday's Eucharistic Procession to the Chapel, Holy Thursday's Prayer Vigil in the Chapel, Good Friday's 3:00 PM Stations of the Cross and Holy Saturday's Easter Vigil. There are sign-up sheets in the back of church. For more information, leave a message for Dana at 651-310-0830.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THOMAS MERTON AND DOROTHY DAY

We will hear stories of how Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton influenced three people's lives at a panel to be held Sunday, March 28 at 4:00 PM in the church. Panel members are William Cavanaugh, Bob Stevens and Rev. Jerry Vandrovec, who was an associate pastor here about 25 years ago. Sister Mary White will facilitate. There is no charge for this event.

LENTEN POTLUCKS

Join us for the last potluck this Wednesday, March 31 at 5:45 PM in the faculty lunge at school. Bring a dish to pass. We will reflect on the writings of Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day.

RED AND WHITE TICKETS AVAILABLE

Tickets for the April 24, 2004 dinner are available for purchase after all masses, and during business hours at the parish center or school. The per ticket cost is still only \$50. The proceeds of this event go to fund the School's endowment fund. Seating is limited so buy your tickets early.

	<p>St. Matthew's Child Care Part Time Preschool Ages four and five</p> <p>Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM—12:00 PM \$28.00 Daily</p> <p>Curriculum includes: Literacy, Math, Exploration, and Discovery, Music, Arts, Outside Play, Dramatic Play and Community Walks</p> <p>Call 651-224-1450</p>	
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CONGRATULATIONS TO FIRST RECONCILIATION STUDENTS

On Thursday, March 18 about 24 young people from St. Matthew's celebrated their First Reconciliation. If you were unable to attend and have been preparing for reconciliation please call the parish center to discuss a time to celebrate private reconciliation.

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	March 28
4:00-6:00 PM,MC	In the Footsteps of Thomas Merton & Dorothy Day
Monday	March 29
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:45 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday	March 30
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Wednesday	March 31
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
5:45-7:45 PM, SC	Pot Luck Supper and Discussion
6:30 PM, SC	Religious Education Grades 1-10
Thursday	April 1
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
5:00 PM, MC	Youth Choir
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
Friday	April 2
4:00-7:00 PM, SH	Fish Fry Dinner
	Catholic Order of Foresters Matching Grant
Saturday	April 3
Sunday	April 4
2:00 PM, MC	Communal Reconciliation
4:00 PM,MC	Communal Reconciliation

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

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, March 21 Collections

Sunday Envelopes and Plate:	\$ 6,219.86
Youth and Children's Envelopes:	\$ 4.00
School Fund Envelopes:	\$ 60.00
Archdiocese Assessment	\$ 120.00

Stewardship is a way of life—a graciousness by which I return to God a portion of what God has lavished on me. s.j. adrian

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 28	8:00 AM Wayne Buse 10:30 AM Parishioners
Monday, March 29	6:45 AM Earl Caffisch Ellen Warren
Tuesday, March 30	6:45 AM Cathy Frame 12:10 PM Parishioners
Wednesday, March 31	6:45 AM Parishioners 12:10 PM World Peace
Thursday, April 1	6:45 AM Parishioners 12:10 PM World Peace
Friday, April 2	6:45 AM Robert Weber 5:15 PM World Peace
Saturday, April 3	Arthur Geis
Sunday, April 4	8:00 AM Marie Caffisch Larry Simmons Agnes DeFoe 10:30 AM Parishioners

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of March 28, 2004

Sunday:	Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11
Monday:	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:12-20
Tuesday:	Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday:	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday:	Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday:	Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday:	Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56
Next Sunday:	Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23:56

BULLETIN DEADLINE FOR EASTER BULLETIN

Please note that the Easter bulletin needs to be sent to the printer two days earlier than normal. Therefore the deadline for submitting articles for the Easter Bulletin (April 11) is Friday, April 2 at 5:00 PM. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Saint Matthew Church Office..... 651-224-9793
Web site: st-matts.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor.....	Father Stephen Adrian
Priest in Residence	Father Marty Warren
Deacon.....	Rev. John Murphy
Dir. Education & Formation.....	Beth Behnke
Dir. Music & Liturgy	Dana McCarthy
Dir. Child Care.....	Maureen Gitlin
Business Administrator	Debra Lindstedt
Administrative Assistant	Nicole Johnson
Dir. Food Service	Alice Schletty
Parish Engineer.....	David Rosas

Phone Numbers

Fax.....	651-228-9448
Parish School.....	651-224-6912
Extended Day.....	651-228-1535
Child Care Center.....	651-224-1450
Liturgy and Music Voicemail.....	651-310-0830
Prayerline Receiver.....	651-222-3622 or 651-224-2903-

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 three months prior to wedding.

Parish Council Members

Kathy Goldenstein	Linda Sellars
Marty Olson	Jeff Gilberg
Paul Kempe	Suzanne Clarke
John Finnegan	Tim Jack
Doug Kennedy	Becky Montgomery
John Sekevitch	

Committee Chairs

Finance.....	Peter Grayson
Education Advisory	Michele Edwards
Liturgy	