

The Community of St. Matthew



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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

For more than a year the Archdiocese has been involved in a detailed planning process. This process was initiated by the Archbishop after more than a year of consultation and work on the design of the process.

What prompted the process is a recognition that demographics of the Twin Cities and surrounding area have changed and continue to change rapidly; the number of priests available to serve a growing Catholic population is declining; financial resources are limited and stretched; a new configuration of parishes, schools, institutions and structures is needed to address the challenges of the 21st century and continue to build a vibrant and effective local church community.

A strategic Planning Task Force was appointed by the Archbishop. This task force is made up of people who represent a spectrum of Catholic Church life in the Twin Cities.

Guiding the process is a series of priorities which will make sure that the process issues in a strong local church:

Full sacramental ministry must be available to every Catholic in each geographical area of the archdiocese. In other words, every Catholic will have a home parish and will know where to go for spiritual assistance.

Qualified pastoral leaders (i.e., clergy, religious and lay) will be assigned to each of those geographical areas.

Special concern must be given to the poor, the marginalized or the immigrant.

Every parish will be involved, to one degree or another, in the planning process. We will not permit discussions to fall along the lines of "the haves" and "the have nots." Every parish will be expected to evaluate its spiritual, sacramental, communal, financial and faith formation resources. Adjustments will be made with other parishes in that particular deanery based on the evaluation.

Catholic schools cannot be left out of the plan. The situation with our schools is complex and diverse. But we want to continue our support for them to the best of our ability.

The discussions surrounding this planning should be characterized by mutual respect, patience, honesty

and an ability to listen to all points of view. The main thrust of the planning is about collaboration and cooperation, not about closing, though the latter may happen in some cases.

Many dozens of meetings have taken place throughout the Archdiocese over the past year; meetings involving parish members, parish council members, trustees, financial council members, clergy, professional lay staff, and archdiocese organizations. These meetings gave been regional. We have all been invited to send our thoughts to the Task Force through surface mail or e-mail.

Currently the Task Force is formulating recommendations and in the beginning of the summer will make those recommendations to the Archbishop.

In light of what they have heard below are some of the factors which the Task Force has laid out in preparation for their recommendations are:

Parish culture and community are important factors to consider.

Evangelization and outreach, especially to young people and those who have left the Church, are key.

There is a deep concern for the well-being of priests, with recognition that priests need more support.

The laity need to be engaged in any parish clustering, collaborations and mergers.

It is important to have transparent communication to and from the Archdiocese and within parishes about all issues related to planning, including finances.

In light of the above factors I shall write a series of articles in the coming weeks about the ministry and mission of Saint Matthew, the programs and work of the parish, the financial, physical plant and personnel profile of our parish. None of this will be new, yet it is an ongoing effort to communicate the details of the life of our parish.

We continue to pray at Mass that this ongoing planning process may issue in a strong and vibrant church.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS

ST. MATTHEW'S FISH FRY!!

Invite you family, neighbors, friends, co-workers. Every Friday February 19 through March 26 from 4:30-7:30 pm. Coordinated by the St. Matthew's Men's Club and our co-sponsors, Home & School; Boy, Cub, and Girl Scouts; Rosary Society; Street Children of Bucharest, and Casa Guadalupana. Flyers, for posting, and volunteer information, we can always use some help, are available at the Scrip table. Questions? Tim Nowak 612-269-9471.

THANK YOU FROM THE GIRL SCOUTS

St. Matt's Girl Scouts would like to say THANK YOU to everyone for their very generous support for the food drive last weekend! The Girl Scouts received \$577 in contributions and collected around 300 pounds of food. All donations of food and money will go to Neighborhood House's Food Shelf and help families in our community. Thank you again for helping the girls learn about helping our neighbors.

NEW HYMNBOOK STANDS

We are in need of 6 new hymnbook stands. Our current stands continue to fall apart and can't be repaired. The new stands are being made by parishioner Shelly McMonigal. The cost per stand is \$175. (The money for one stand has already been donated!) If you would like to purchase or make a donation towards these stands please take an envelope and place it in the collection with your contribution. (Envelopes are on the prototype hymnal rack in the back of church.)

Thank you in advance!

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE – REGISTRATION FOR 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

On Thursday March 18th, we will be having a New Family Information Night in the school from 6:30-8:00 PM. This open house is designed to introduce new families to our school. If you know a family that may be interested, please invite them to the open house. If March 18 doesn't work, have them contact us, visit the school, or join you in a visit of the school. We are happy to schedule tours at any time of the day. Registration for new families for the 2010-2011 school year begins on Monday, March 15, there are openings in most grade levels, we have had wait lists for several grade levels the past two years, so register early. Call the school office at 651-224-6912 for more information about registration or the open house.

OLDER CHILD BAPTISM

There will be class on Tuesday, March 9 at 6:30 pm in the chapel for parents and young people who are interested in learning about baptism. Any child, and their parent/s, kindergarten or older, who is interested in baptism should attend this meeting. Baptisms will be celebrated during the Easter Season. Contact Kathy Goldenstein at 651-224-6912 for more information.

THE ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL LENTEN THEME IS "PLANTING SEEDS OF FAITH"

We begin each week of Lent with a prayer service in church. We have a new topic for the students to reflect on each week. This week's topic is sharing Jesus' love with our neighbors. Students will listen to the story of the Good Samaritan and reflect on how they treat their neighbors. They will then share their ideas on flower petals and create class flowers to display on the bulletin board in the social hall for all to enjoy. The flowers the classes are creating each week represent their faith in Jesus growing! The students are hoping to have a full garden by Easter. Students are also planting and caring for seeds in their classrooms. They will care for and pray over the plants while watching them grow. They will share their plants with the Cerenity community in the spring. Please look for our garden of faith growing on our bulletin board in the social hall!

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	March 7
Monday	March 8
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 9
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
9:00 AM, PC	Alums & Friends
12:10 PM, CH	Mass
2:00-6:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Wednesday	March 10
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
1:00-6:00 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
No Religious Education Tonight	
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
Thursday	March 11
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
12:10 PM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Friday	March 12
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
4:30-7:30 PM, SH	Lenten Fish Fry
5:15 PM, MC	Mass
Saturday	March 13
Sunday	March 14
4:00 PM, MC	Confirmation Class

Note: These are additional mass intentions for March 25, 2010: +Douglas Nehring, +Mary & Frank Nehring, +Charles & Agnes Appel

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

The parable in today's Gospel clearly warns that we, like the fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity. [In that way, we truly will live the mission of Saint Matthew's: to be a visible expression of God's love—each day, everyday, on the Westside and beyond.]

Sharing Last weekend's stewardship was \$13,572!! Thank you! That amount does include the one parish family's annual gift through stock. The total now--\$332,368—is slightly less than \$8,000 behind the budget, year-to-date.

A few addition dollars this past weekend: \$60 in school envelopes; \$5 for the food shelf. Thanks, too, for these.

Service: Helped at a birthday party... visited to elderly... working with children on reading.

Prayer: Daily mass, rosary and prayer... spiritual reading... prayer for family and fellow parishioners.

Children: \$5.15, Thank you! They wrote: picked up toys... shared... shoveled... did well in school this week.

125th anniversary. We'll begin our year-long celebration next Mardi Gras. Plan to be involved; would you help lead an activity? Please call the parish office.

Contribution statements for the first two months of 2010 will be mailed this week, along with a schedule for liturgy and prayer during Holy Week. [Please note: in order for the statements to be sent in 'bulk mail' the post office insists that they include the crass statement about meeting or exceeding pledges. Please forgive the brusqueness of that sentence.]

Assumption Mass and picnic. Mass will be at 11:00AM in Cherokee Park [there will NOT be a 10:30AM Mass in Church] followed by a picnic...for all comers.

Reunion Sunday. May 2 at 10:30AM Mass followed by complimentary brunch and touring the school. All alums are invited, especially those is the -00 and -05 classes! RSVP to the parish office.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of March 7, 2010
 Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9
 Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Lk 4:24-30
 Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35
 Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19
 Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23
 Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34
 Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14
 Next Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

PARISH DIRECTORY

Saint Matthew Church Office..... 651-224-9793
 Fax..... 651-228-9448
 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 and KLT *Shar Lavelle*
 Bookkeeper *Cindy Hoffman*
 Administrative Assistant *Nicole Johnson*
 Dir. Food Service *Donna Jenniges*
 Parish Engineer *David Rosas*

Phone Numbers

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*

Karen Thompson Georgann Henjum
 Connie Aligada Joyce Osborne
 Jason Delmont Anthony Minus
 Dean Steinbrenner Chris Stevens
 Stephen Adrian David Burrows