

The Community of St. Matthew



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

FIFTH SUNDAY *of* LENT
ETERNAL LIFE

WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY OF SAINT MATTHEW • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

Three years ago this Sunday Stephen, Mike and I participated in Sunday Mass in Rome at the Church of Santa Maria in Transpotina on the Via de Conciliazione – a block away from Saint Peter's Square.

The morning was sunny. It was spring. Helicopters overhead monitored a local marathon being run that Sunday. On the way to church we had to detour a number of times because streets were barricaded for the marathon runners.

Mass was to start at 10 am, so we arrived ten minutes early and took our place half way back in the church. By the time Mass started the church was full – mostly locals – families with children, elderly members of the congregation dressed to the nines. The front pews were reserved for religious education students and their teachers. An elderly woman with mild dementia was seated near us, she was cared for by a young woman – perhaps her grand daughter. A young family sat in the row with us, a small child – perhaps 2 years old played with my shoes and kept untying my laces. It truly was a very mixed parish community – not unlike the community which gathers at 10:30 on Sunday morning at Saint Matthew.

Mass began with the entrance procession coming down the main aisle; altar servers – boys and girls carrying cross, candles, etc accompanied the priest and a few concelebrants. The parish is served by Carmelite clergy and a large shrine to Our lady of Mount Carmel is very prominent on the right side of the church.

Music was led by a cantor and was the same congregational Lenten music we sing at Saint Matthew's – only in Italian – the compositions of Joncas, Haas, etc.

After the Gospel of the raising of Lazarus a large black board on wheels was placed at the head of the middle aisle and the pastor began to teach and ask questions of the congregation about the meaning of the Gospel.

At offertory time the obligatory collection was taken and along with the offerings bread and wine were brought forward. Also godparents brought forward the baptismal gowns for the children who would be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The gowns were blessed and so were the godparents.

The liturgy was prayerful and very easy. I got the sense that people truly felt at home in this church community and that it truly was a community – people knew each other. Stephen and I both agreed that the feel of the experience, the style of the liturgy and the mix of the congregation was so much like what we experience week by week at Saint Matthew.

I had heard stories about how staid and stilted the liturgy of Rome was; I had also heard that “no one” goes to church in Rome. Both are unfounded.

Maybe the lesson learned is: When a church community is welcoming and inclusive, when the liturgy belongs to the community of faith, when all find a place – even little children who crawl around and untie your shoes – then the worship of God is dynamic and truly the Eucharist makes the community, just as the community makes the Eucharist.

Ciao,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

COFFEE SUNDAY

Coffee Hour after both Sunday masses is being served by Shirley and Larry Smith and Tim and Pat Kasheimer and - 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, 4/13/08, 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 19th annual Lenten Fish Fry.

FOOD SHELF

Every day some of our neighbors struggle to put food on their table. Helping them is as easy as bringing food or paper products to weekend worship. Every week food is collected here and brought to Neighborhood House. You'll find wish lists or envelopes for cash donations on the bulletin board in back of church. The food shelf is always in need of grocery bags too. Thank you for your help. The Food Shelf Committee.

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS

FIRST RECONCILIATION CELEBRATED

Nineteen young people of our parish celebrated their First Reconciliation on Sunday, March 2. Families and friends joined the young people for the reconciliation service followed by a potluck supper. Thank you to Sr. Anne Becker and Sr. Stephanie Spandl for providing the music at the service, to the Gilberg family for helping to organize the potluck, and the Men's Club for donating the pop.

SOCK DRIVE RESULTS

Thank you for responding to the Listening House Sock Drive. We collected 125 T-shirts, 215 pairs of socks, 1 bag of women's items, 1 very large bag of personal care items, 1 bag of scarves and hats, 11 union suits, and 203 pairs of shorts. (Briefs won over boxers by about 5 to 1.) This was the largest collection we have had because T shirts and shorts cost more than socks. People from Listening House helped carry the bags into the center. As we walked into the center, we heard several men say, "They brought clothes!" Such excitement over socks and underwear. We drove away feeling pretty good and very grateful for what God has given us.

LEISURE CLUB

St. Matthew's Leisure Club will meet on Wednesday, March 12 at 1:30 PM. There will be a meeting followed by Sister Anne Becker playing and leading us in singing Irish tunes. Plan on coming and bring a friend!

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.

ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING

The Rosary Society will meet on Tuesday, March 11 at 6:45 p.m. in St Matthew's Social Hall.

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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.

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	March 9
4:00 PM, MC	Confirmation Class
Monday	March 10
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:30 PM, SC	EAC meeting
6:45 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
7:00 PM, MC	Stations of the Cross
Tuesday	March 11
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
12:10 PM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:30 PM, SC	Home & School
Wednesday	March 12
6:45 AM, CH	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
6:30 PM, SC	Religious Education, Grades 1-10
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
Thursday	March 13
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
12:10 AM, CH	Mass
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes

Friday	March 14
6:45 AM, CH	Mass
4:30-7:30 PM, SH	Fish Fry
5:15 PM, MC	Mass

Saturday	March 15
Sunday	March 16
2:00 & 4:00 PM	Communal Reconciliation

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

STEWARDSHIP

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness is not to end in death; rather it is for God's glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified." Every aspect of our lives—our gifts as well as our sufferings—can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessing for ourselves and others.

Prayer: prayers for parishioners...made a weekend retreat... did Bible reading daily...prayed for a friend who died...did evening prayer with the children each night...prayed for the intentions in the prayer chain [couldn't we each do that?] thank you for prayer, for modeling, for invitation to follow.

Service: volunteered at the fish fry...volunteered at Neighborhood House...helped in the school library...visited people in a nursing home...assisted an elderly person in the house...three hours volunteering at my child's school... taught religious education. Thank you for service, for modeling, for invitation to follow.

Special recognition to a group of young people from St. Joseph's in New Hope—they were participating in a day of fast and service last Saturday. More than 20 of them came with parents and chaperones and did some cleaning, carpet shampooing, etc., in our different buildings.

Sharing last weekend, through the three "normal" means, \$11,254 was given in stewardship. Thank you for contributions, for modeling, for invitation to follow. The fiscal year-to-date actual is \$11381 behind budget: about \$316 per weekend.

As well, money was given for the education needs: \$937; for holydays: \$35; and for the fuel collection: \$45. Thank you for each of these. The fuel bill for the buildings for January was \$19,000+. [It would have been higher except for the new windows in the parish center building—thanks to everyone in retrospect.]

Kitchen equipment: we're planning the install of the dishwasher during the first week of April [there will be less use because the day school is not in session]. Thanks to each person who was able to make a contribution: more than \$5,500 was collected including generous gifts from the So Robert Business Association and the West St Paul Commercial Club. Thank you!

Readings for the Week of March 9, 2008	
Sunday:	Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
Monday:	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Jn 8:1-11
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:	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13,16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Next Sunday:	Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

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