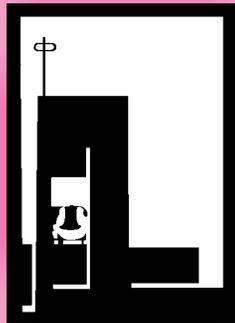


The Community of St. Matthew



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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

Saint Jerome said, "The one who is ignorant of the scriptures is ignorant of Christ". Blessed John XXIII said, "We are nourished on the cup (the Holy Eucharist) and the book (the scriptures)."

Prior to the Second Vatican Council the study of scripture was almost exclusively a Protestant activity. While most Catholic families had a "family Bible", it was rarely, if ever, read. It usually rested on a coffee table and contained the list of marriages, baptisms and deaths of a family.

Following the Second Vatican Council the riches of the Scriptures were widely opened to Catholics. The Church abandoned a "yearly cycle" of scripture readings and adopted a "three year cycle" of scripture readings, so that every third year the same Sunday scriptures are read. Catholics were urged to own a Bible and to read from it, to grow in a sense of the truth of God's revelation.

This Advent I will offer a series of three Saturday morning reflections on the stories of birth of Jesus as

found in the Gospels according to Matthew and Luke. All are invited, young people and adults. Please bring your Bible with you. I will prepare some background materials on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. If you wish to participate in this offering, please call the Church office and leave your name and how many will attend. This will help me decide on the room we need and the amount of materials to be prepared.

The Birth of the Savior
A study of Matthew and Luke

Saturday, 9:00-11:00 am
December 2, 9, 16

Church of Saint Matthew
651-224-9793

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA/ ROSARY SOCIETY BAKE SALE

Boys Scout Troop 107 Santa Breakfast will be held on December 10 from 8:30 AM-12:00 noon in the Social Hall. Please mark your calendars. The Christmas Bake Sale will be held Saturday, December 9, and Sunday, December 10, at Breakfast with Santa. This is the Rosary Society's major fundraiser. We encourage all parishioners to contribute their favorite Christmas treat of cookies, breads, candies, and snacks. Boys Scout Troop 107 Santa Breakfast will be held on December 10 from 8:30-12:00 in the Social Hall. Please mark your calendars.

ST. MATTHEW'S MEN'S CLUB HOLIDAY AUCTION

On Wednesday, December 13, the Annual Men's Club Holiday Auction will take place in the social hall. Everyone is invited to attend, the auction will begin at 8:00 PM. Proceeds will go to the St. Matthew's Holiday Giving Tree. Donations are needed and pick-up is available. Contact Brian Osborne at 651-230-1518 or at mensclub@st-matts.org

GIFT GIVING WEEKEND

On the weekend of December 9th and 10th, we invite you to make Christmas a joyous occasion for needy families by bringing NEW, unwrapped gifts to place under the Christmas tree in the church. Gifts for all ages are appreciated, don't forget the teenagers and adults! Gift certificates from the SCRIP table are a great idea for those hard to buy for teens. Your sharing will add to the happiness of the recipient's Christmas, as well as your own.

If you are a parish family who is in need or if you know of a family in need at this time, please call Nicole at the parish center, 651-224-9793. All names will be kept confidential.

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER

Advent morning prayer will be offered in the church at 9:00 AM on the first 4 Saturdays of December. This ancient prayer form last about 20 minutes and is rich in music and psalmody. Give yourself the gift of this quiet & prayerful time away from all the holiday bustle. Our Community Advent Wreath will be blessed during our first morning prayer. We invite you to bring your household Advent Wreath for a special blessing as a part of our prayer that morning. We also invite you take home an Advent prayer to use as you light your Advent candles this season. Copies are available in the back of the church.

EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS THIS WEEK

There will be Religious Education class for all students in grades 1-10 this Wednesday, November 29. Class begins at 6:30 PM and ends promptly at 7:45 PM. Tenth graders will be meeting with Father Adrian for confirmation interviews.

FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Students preparing for First Communion and their parents will have their first class on Tuesday, November 28 at 6:30 PM in the chapel. If you have a student in 2nd grade or older and have not yet registered for class there is still space available. Please call the parish center and leave your name, registration forms will be available to fill out on Tuesday evening.

SCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Bath & Body Works Holiday Discount – Bath & Body is offering an additional 5% discount on their gift cards through the Scrip program. The discount increases from 13% to 18%. The Scrip program is going to share the benefit! Place your holiday orders for Bath & Body by December 3 and get a \$10 card for \$9.10 each or a \$25 card for \$22.75 each. Orders can be placed at the Scrip table or at the school office. Check out our other vendors for all your Christmas shopping needs.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 107 WREATH SALE

Thanks to our families, friends, neighbors and especially the Community of St. Matthew's, 13 Boy Scouts sold over \$9000.00 in wreaths during this year's fundraiser. The money made from this sale will enable the boys to attend campouts and events throughout the next year. Thanks again for your continued support of Troop 107

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES READY FOR PICK-UP!

If you are a Communion Minister, Lector, Altar Server, Usher/Greeter, Gift Bearer or MC/Sac, your schedule for Dec. 2 thru Feb. 18, is at the back of church, next to the elevator lobby. Extra (unlabeled) copies are available in the sacristy.

CYCLE C ST. JOSEPH MISSALS & LECTOR WORK BOOKS ARE HERE

Lectors who ordered a work book can pick one up from the Sacristy (the cost is \$10.00). If you forgot to order one, check with Dana. Anyone interested in a St. Joseph Sunday Missal can purchase one for \$5.00. They are located under the Community Slat Board at the main entrance. Quantity is limited.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL CHOIR

Rehearsals for Christmas begin Thursday, November 30th at 7:00 PM in the church. They last about an hour and are always alive with the great community that music ministry offers. If you are interested in joining us for our Christmas Midnight Mass and/or our Epiphany Mass @ 10:30 on Jan. 7th, leave Dana a message at 651-310-0830 so she can prepare a choir folder for you. Also, if you have an instrumental gift to share with the community (flute, violin, keyboard, etc.), let Dana know -- she'll get back to you!

NOVEMBER 500 CARD CLUB WINNERS

1st Place—3620—Gayle Stelter and Charlotte St. Martin. 2nd Place—2750—Marie Caflisch and Theresa Gubash.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	November 26
Monday 3:00 PM, SH 6:45 PM, XC	November 27 Loaves and Fishes Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, CH	November 28 Loaves and Fishes First Communion Class—students and parents
Wednesday 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, SC	November 29 St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes Religious Education Class, Grades 1-10
Thursday 3:00 PM, SH 5:00 PM, MC 7:00 PM, MC	November 30 Loaves and Fishes Youth Choir Adult Choir
Friday 7:15 AM –5:15 PM CH	December 1 Eucharistic Adoration
Saturday 9:00 AM, MC	December 2 Advent Morning Prayer & Reflections on the Stories of the Birth of the Savior
Sunday	December 3

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

Today's second reading reminds us that the sacrifice of Christ frees us from sin and makes us a royal nation of priests in the service of God. How am I using my gifts to serve God and others?

Prayer: [The chapel is open every weekday from 6:00AM to 6:00PM for prayer and visits.] As we conclude Thanksgiving weekend, let's not conclude our prayer of thanks. What are we thankful for? Why? Will we bring that thankfulness to Mass each weekend? The word for Eucharist is in Greek [eucaristia] means "thankful remembering."

Service: Thanks this week to those who have "behind the scenes" ministry in liturgy: the sacristans and the leaders of Children's Liturgy at the 10:30AM Mass each Sunday. Those people work hard to enable the worship of all to be well-organized and meaningful. Thank you!

Sharing: Thanks to envelope users, plate givers, and electronic transmitters. Last weekend's collection was \$10,925, the third weekend in a row when the collection was in 5 figures!! The average for the three weekends in November has been \$12,617. Thanks for remembering that the expense side of the budget continues week in and week out and that our contributing to the income side should be equally regular.

Stewardship Renewal: Thanks to the hundreds of parishioners who have already returned the "green form." Follow-up phoning—to all those who have not returned a form—will begin this Sunday and Monday [Nov. 26 & 27]. Please remember that the pledges that have been made should begin in 2007. Those who have committed electronically will find that amount transmitted at the frequency you requested beginning in January. [New amounts for those continuing electronically will be programmed beginning in January.]

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions may be found on the monthly calendar available in the back of church.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of November 26, 2006
 Sunday: Dn 7:13-14/ Rv 1:5-8/ Jn 18:33b-37
 Monday: Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/ Lk 21:1-4
 Tuesday: Rv 14:14-19/ Lk 21:5-11
 Wednesday: Rv 15:1-4/ Lk 21:12-19
 Thursday: Rom 10:9-18/ Mt 4:18-22
 Friday: Rv 20:1-4, 11-21:2/ Lk 21:29-33
 Saturday: Rv 22:1-7/ Lk 21:34-36
 Next Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/ 1 Thes 3:12-4:2/
 Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

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 *Dana McCarthy*
 Dir. Child Care..... *Dimary Rosado*
 Dir. Marketing & Development.....*Maureen Gitlin*
 Business Administrator *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 651-224-1450
 Liturgy and Music Voicemail..... 651-310-0830

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 Larry Sachi
 Nicole Johnson John Sekevitch
 Connie Aligada Sister Joanna Illg
 Lucus Ecker Mark Thomford
 Sheila Brunelle Stephen Adrian

Committee Chairs

Finance.....
 Education Advisory Richard Dunn