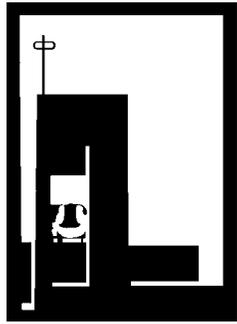


# The Community of St. Matthew



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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

**Next weekend is annual collection to fund the retirement needs of religious sisters, brothers and priests.**

For more than 10 years the Catholic community of the United States has taken up this collection, and the result is that many thousands of retired religious have greater opportunities to live out their retirement years with dignity and care.

The cost for the care of retired religious is over \$1,000,000 a day. A large part of that is paid for through their own religious communities. However, since most sisters were never on social security during their working years, and since their income was a very modest stipend, the need for this collection is critical.

This collection is not a work of charity; it is an act of justice. For so many years we have deferred the compensation of sisters who taught in our schools, nursed in our hospitals, worked in our charitable institutions. Now is the time to provide that deferred compensation.

**This week begins the new church year, the First Week of Advent.** During this year the Gospel passages at Sunday Mass will come from the Gospel according to Matthew. I encourage you to make it a project for this year to prayerfully read that Gospel.

Read the Gospel from beginning to end in one sitting; it will take about an hour to do that. You get the sweep of

the story, the taste for the action, the context in which the words and deeds of Jesus are recorded. This is the Gospel of the Sermon on the Mount.

After reading the Gospel through, go back and slowly read parts of the Gospel, a few verses at a time. Allow the words to sink in deeply, allow the images to impress themselves on you, allow the Spirit of God to touch you. I encourage you to make the slow reading of the Gospel of Matthew a part of your daily life for this year. Chew on the words, mull them over, commit some of them to memory – let the Gospel seep into you.

**Gift Giving Sunday is the weekend of December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.** For 25 years our parish community has provided NEW gifts for those in need in our community. Bring new gifts and wrapping paper to church and place them under the parish Christmas tree. We need gifts for adults – men and women, seniors, teens, children and babies. You might consider buying a gift certificate at the Scrip table for food or clothing or gas – gift certificates are GREAT gifts, they allow the recipient the discretion to make his/her own choices.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian  
Pastor

## PARISH EVENTS

### GIFT GIVING WEEKEND

On the weekend of December 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> we invite you to make Christmas a joyous occasion for needy families by bringing NEW, unwrapped gifts to place under the Christmas tree in church. Gifts for all ages are appreciated, don't forget the teenagers and adults! 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 family in need at this time, please call Nicole at the Parish Center, 651-224-9793. All names will be kept confidential.

### ST. MATTHEW'S MUSIC MINISTRY INVITES YOU TO JOIN OUR "FESTIVAL CHOIR" FOR THE COMING CHRISTMAS FEASTS

The Festival Choir is comprised of Adult Choir Members and other singers or musicians who (while they may not be able to join the regular choir) wish to share their gifts with the community during this special season. The Festival Choir will be singing for the Midnight Christmas Mass this year. We could also use some extra voices and /or instruments at our 10:30 Christmas Day mass. Come join us and get in the spirit! Rehearsal are every Thursday from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM in the church—starting December 2.

### HAVE YOU PURCHASED YOUR NEW CYCLE A ST. JOSEPH MISSAL?

They may be purchased in the back of church before and after weekend masses while supplies last. The cost is \$5.00.

EDUCATION AND  
FAITH FORMATION NEWS



**FEEDING THE HUNGRY**

During the Thanksgiving Season the 8th grade students at St. Matthew's School conducted a very successful Food Drive to benefit the Neighborhood House food shelf. These students should be commended for caring for the community in this way.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS THIS WEEK**

Religious education class for grades 1- 10 will meet this Wednesday, December 1 at 6:30 PM.

**THE GIFT OF MUSIC**

The students of St. Matthew's School will present their annual Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 PM in the church. Everyone is welcome to come share in the music of the season.

**WE NEED 1 MORE BELL RINGERS TO COMPLETE OUR ADULT HAND BELL CHOIR**

No need to read music—just need to count and offer a “willing hand”- or two. We practice about three times a month, from 9:00 Am to 10:00 AM on Sundays in the church. Give us a try! Call Dana (224-9793, parish center), or speak with her after mass this weekend.

**ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS, LECTORS, COMMUNION MINISTERS, USHERS/GREETERS AND GIFT BEARERS!**

The New Liturgical Ministry Schedules are ready for pick-up in the back of church. (If you have requested to receive your schedule on-line or via e-mail , there will NOT be a paper schedule with your label on it—although we do have extra copies if you want one.) The new schedule starts this week, Saturday, November 28. If you pick up your schedule you save us a ton of postage. Thanks!

**BOY SCOUT WREATH ORDER PICKUP**

This weekend Boy Scouts will be at the back of church with wreath orders that were ordered at church a few weeks ago. If you placed an order directly with a Boy Scout, that Boy Scout will deliver that order to you. Thank you for your continued support of the Boy Scouts of Troop 107.

**EAST SIDE LEARNING CENTER SEEKS VOLUNTEERS**

The East Side Learning Center, a ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, is seeking volunteers who will make a difference in the lives of at-risk children in grades K-4. Tutors will receive in-service training to work one-on-one with children who are below grade level in reading. During the second semester our program will operate Monday-Thursday, from 3:00 PM—5:00 PM, from January 10, 2005-May 19, 2005. We invite you to spend at least one or two hours a week helping at-risk children increase their confidence while becoming better readers. Please consider this opportunity. If interested, please call Sister Jana Roberts, SSND at 651-793-7331. Thank you.

THIS WEEK AT  
SAINT MATTHEW

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>November 28</b>
<b>Monday</b> 3:00 PM, SH 6:45 PM, XC	<b>November 29</b> Loaves and Fishes Boy Scout Meeting
<b>Tuesday</b> 3,00 PM, SH	<b>November 30</b> Loaves and Fishes
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, SC	<b>December 1</b> St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes Religious Education Class, Grades 1-10
<b>Thursday</b> 3:00 PM, SH 5:00 PM, MC 7:00 PM, MC	<b>December 2</b> Loaves and Fishes Youth Choir Adult Choir
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 3</b>
<b>Saturday</b> 8:00 AM, PC  5:00 PM, MC	<b>December 4</b> Liturgy Committee Meeting Gift Giving Weekend
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM, MC  10:30 AM, MC	<b>December 5</b> Gift Giving Weekend Gift Giving Weekend

**Abbreviations:**

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

