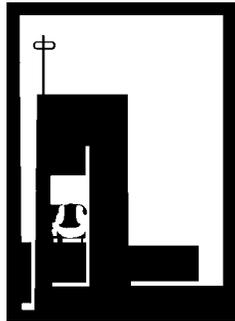
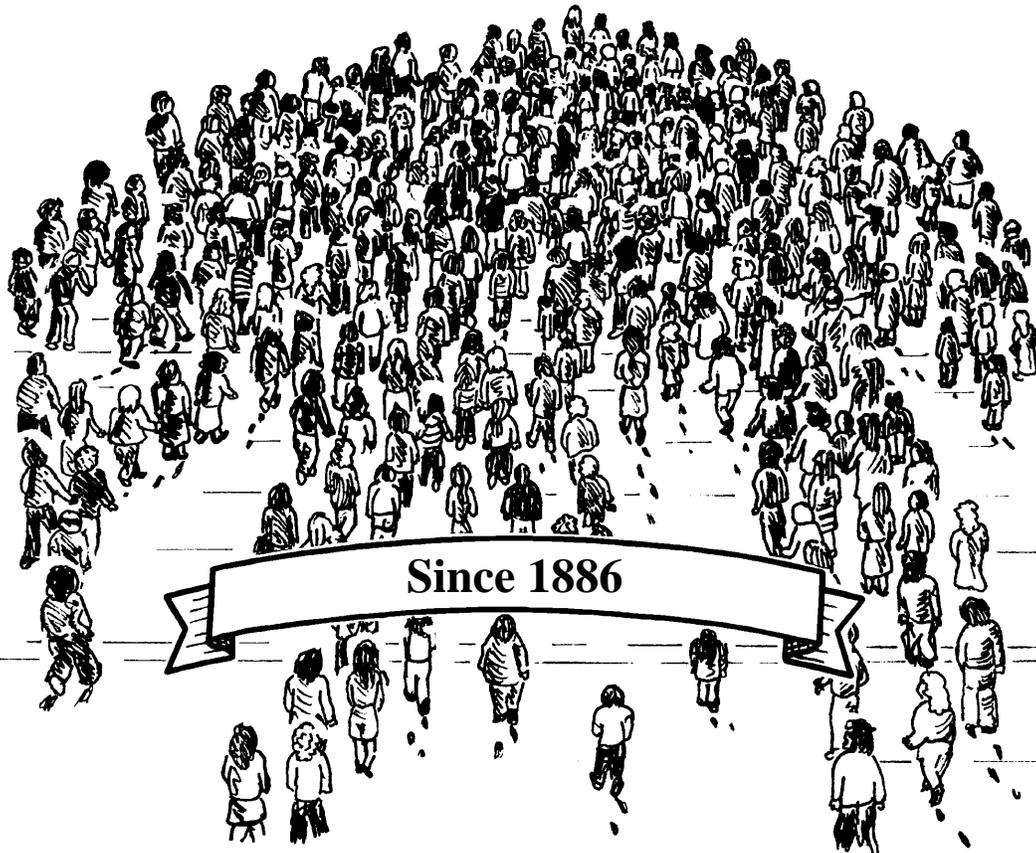


# The Community of St. Matthew



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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

Next weekend the annual collection for the **Retirement Fund for Religious** will take place.

For 117 years sisters, almost all being School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), have been and are an integral part of Saint Matthew's.

For almost all of that time sisters were not paid a salary, they were given a very small stipend and they ministered and taught in our parish school. Sisters were not enrolled in social security until a generation ago. It was assumed that sisters would not retire, they would "die with their boots on".

Today of the more than 70,000 sisters in the United States, 39,000 are over the age of 70. The unfunded retirement liability of the nations religious orders is estimated at \$6.1 billion. The average social security payment to an individual sister is about \$3,750 while the average individual benefit for the general population is \$10,700 per year.

For the past fifteen years there has been an annual collection in the United States to help fund the retirement and

long term care needs of sisters. Last year this national collection brought in \$28 million.

We have benefited greatly from the ministry and witness of sisters. Now that so many of them are in their retirement years you are I am called upon to assist them, not out of a sense of charity, but out of a sense of justice. The scripture reminds us "the laborer is entitled to her wage".

This weekend Sister Ann Carol, SSND, a member of Saint Matthew's and a teacher in Saint Matthew's School, will speak at all Masses and remind us of the retirement needs of her community.

Please be generous to the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious next weekend.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian  
Pastor

## PARISH EVENTS

### GIFT GIVING WEEKEND—NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend, December 5th & 6th, 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. Gifts will be distributed to families on Saturday, December 13. The distribution process is being spearheaded by the Confirmation Class of 2004.

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 for complete information on the distribution process. All names will be kept confidential.

### HOLIDAY SCRIP SALES

Stop by the Scrip table for your holiday gift certificates. There is always a large selection of businesses to choose from. Order early, relieve the shopping pressures, and enjoy the holidays.

### CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

Saint Matthew's Christmas Bake Sale is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, December 13th and 14th. This is an opportunity for all women to donate their time and talents. We are looking for baked items such as cookies, candies, sweet breads, etc. Please watch the bulletin for future notices. This event is sponsored by the Rosary Society.

### ST MATTHEW'S CHILD CARE FUNDRAISER

Do you want to complete your holiday shopping while helping the St. Matthew's Child Care Center, the only licensed center on the West Side? All you need to do is log onto [www.woodentoysandpuzzles.com](http://www.woodentoysandpuzzles.com) and pick from the high quality toys and puzzles offered. When you go check out, enter the code **mn256** in the box marked "Fundraiser" and a portion of your purchase will be sent to the Center. All items will be shipped directly to the purchaser. Thank you in advance for helping us to help the youngest members of the West Side Community. If you have further questions about the Center or this fundraiser, please call 651-224-1459 and speak with Dimary or Maureen

LAST CHANCE TO RSVP THIS WEEKEND FOR FATHER STEVE'S JUBILEE DINNER

Please join us as we celebrate Father Steve's 25 years as Pastor of Saint Matthew's Church and his 35 years in the Priesthood. For 25 years Father Steve has been here for us through thick and thin. We are honored to have him as our Pastor and friend. December 6th is your chance to thank him. The Parish is planning an evening of festivities, good food and storytelling by some of Father's longtime friends. Your donation of \$35.00 per person will go to the Pastor's Scholarship Fund. Father Steve has been a staunch supporter of Saint Matthew's Parish children and he has requested all proceeds from the evening go to this Fund. Drop your RSVP at the table in the back of church this weekend. Call your friends and family. This opportunity to celebrate comes once in a person's lifetime. See you there.

MEN'S CLUB LIVE AUCTION—DECEMBER 10, 9:00 PM

The St. Matthew's Men's Club is opening up our annual auction for needy families to the public. For many years, we have had this auction during our December meeting and have donated the proceeds to needy families in the parish or community. This year's auction will be open to the public. Auctioneer Harry Brady and his crew will be taking your bids. Do you have an item to donate for a worthy cause? We would be happy to accept your donations, big and small. Contact Tim Nowak at 651-687-2850 during normal business hours or stop by the Scrip table after mass.

NEW ST. JOSEPH MISSALS

The first Sunday of Advent is here and a new cycle of readings has begun—Cycle C. Since every calendar year brings a new set of special feasts that interrupt the regular cycle of readings, your OLD Cycle C missal probably will not be adequate. You can purchase an up-to-date missal for the new liturgical year before or after mass this weekend. A display is in the back of church. Price per missal: \$5.00.

FESTIVAL CHOIR OPPORTUNITIES

The liturgies of Christmas are fast approaching. If you would like to participate in our Festival Choir, now is the time to give Dana a call at 651-310-0830. We have music ministry needs for Christmas Eve at 4:30 PM, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day at 8:00 and 10:30 AM. We can use singers (young, old, families, couples, etc.) as well as instrumentalists. Our regular rehearsals are on Thursdays, in the church, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. If you are eager to participate, or just have a few questions, call Dana at the number above, or stop by the piano after mass.

ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS

All Altar Servers, Communion Ministers, Lectors, Gift Bearers, and Ushers/Greeter, the new Liturgical Ministry Schedule—covering November 30 thru February 22 has begun. Please save us postage by picking up your schedule from the back of church.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

There will be an extra mass at 5:15 PM on Monday, December 8, to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We need liturgical ministers for this mass. If you can help out, there is a sign-up sheet in the main sacristy next to the check-in board.

**THIS WEEK AT  
SAINT MATTHEW**

<b>Sunday</b>	November 30
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 1</b>
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:45 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 2</b>
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 3</b>
12:00-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:30 PM, SC	Religious Education Grades 1-10
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 4</b>
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
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 5</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 6</b>
	<b>Gift Giving Weekend</b>
5:45 PM, SH	Jubilee Dinner for Father Steve
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 7</b>
	<b>Gift Giving Weekend</b>
12:00 PM, CH	Baptism
12:30 PM, CH	Baptism

**Abbreviations:**

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

## STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, November 23:

Envelope and Plate offering	\$8,168.24
Youth & Children's Envelopes	\$ 5.52
School Fund Envelopes	\$ 95.00

*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, November 30	8:00 AM Jig Masek Clarence and Irene Bunde 10:30 AM Parishioners Irene Wimmer (Birthday)
Monday, December 1	Agnes Stefaniak
Tuesday, December 2	Parishioners
Wednesday, December 3	Robert Stickler Arthur Geis (Anniversary)
Thursday, December 4	Parishioners
Friday, December 5	Lorraine Heinisch
Saturday, December 6	Margaret Przblek Patricia Erickson Elias Uribe (Anniversary)
Sunday, December 7	8:00 AM John Bandholz Agnes DeFoe, Larry Simmons 10:30 AM Parishioners Helen Hannegraf

## WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of November 30, 2003

Sunday, November 30	Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday, December 1	Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday, December 2	Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday, December 3	Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday, December 4	Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday, December 5	Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday, December 6	Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday, December 7	Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

## 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