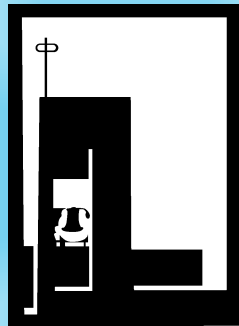


The Community of St. Matthew



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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

Given all the moment's focus on health-care, it's worth noting that next Sunday will see the canonization of two figures already well famed and loved for their devoted service to the sick and aged.

To honor the foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor (Jeanne Jugan) and Hawaii's Belgian-born "Leper Priest" (Damien de Veuster), hundreds of elderly and infirm folks in the care of their respective successors will lead the Roman pilgrimages to the rites... of them all, though, the most poignant group is likely to be a delegation of 11 leprosy patients from Kalaupapa, the island colony where Damien ministered before dying of the disease in 1889:

In the 1870s, the leprosy patients Damien cared for were shunned by most people, even doctors, because of an intense stigma that was associated with the disease.

Today's patients from Kalaupapa, the isolated peninsula where Hawaii's leprosy patients were banished for more than 100 years, feel particularly close to Damien.

Dr. Kalani Brady, their physician, said Thursday the trip to Rome will be an "energy-laden" voyage for many of his patients.

"They're going to see their personal saint canonized," said Brady, 53, who will accompany the group to Rome. It's "incredibly important, incredibly personal for them," he said.

The reverence for Damien transcends religious sects, Brady said, noting that one 84-year-old making the trip is Mormon.

"He's bound to a wheelchair, he's completely blind. So it's important enough for him to go, despite the hurdles which he has to overcome," Brady said....

The pope is expected to meet privately with the patients during their stay in Rome.

The 11 are among about 20 patients who still live at Kalaupapa. The Kingdom of Hawaii began banishing leprosy patients to the

remote section of Molokai Island in the 1860s to control an outbreak of the disease that was killing Native Hawaiians in large numbers....

Today, many patients still have to fight the indignity of stereotypes and misperceptions about the illness.

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is spread by direct person-to-person contact, although it's not easily transmitted. It can cause skin lesions and lead to blindness.

But it's been curable since the development of sulfa drugs in the 1940s, and people treated with drugs aren't contagious.

Damien built homes for the sick, changed their bandages and ate poi, a Hawaiian staple, from the same bowl as the patients. He put up no barriers between himself and those he ministered to.

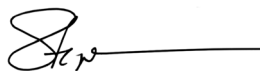
He was diagnosed with leprosy 12 years after he arrived and died five years later in 1889.

Overall, some 650 people from Hawaii are traveling to Rome for the canonization. Most, between 520 and 550, are expected to be part of the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu's delegation.

In recent years, Damien's become an unofficial patron both for those afflicted with HIV/AIDS, and society's outcasts in general.

Through the intercession of Saints Damien and Jeanne may we work diligently to make sure that all receive good health care, especially the most vulnerable, forgotten, despised and rejected.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

PARISH EVENTS

SCHOLASTIC BOOKFAIR

St. Matthew's School is having their annual Scholastic book fair on Sunday, October 18, after each mass. Be sure to stop by the school and check out this year's selection!

MINISTRY FAIR

St. Matthew's annual Ministry Fair is October 10th and 11th after each Mass. This is always a wonderful opportunity to gather information, ask questions and get involved! If you would like to reserve a booth for your particular ministry, please call Jason at 651-225-8103 or e-mail at jandjdelmont@comcast.net and submit your name, the group you are representing and a contact #.

COFFEE FOR A CAUSE

Coffee hours after both Sunday masses are hosted and served by The St. Matthew's Maintenance Staff in support of meeting ongoing church/school facilities upkeep expenses. Thanks to Vicky Rodriguez-Bickel, Elizabeth Rodgers and Carmie Rodriguez. Stop by the Social Hall where good things to eat and drink are offered and a chance for all to say thanks for their work. Last week's C4aC raised \$27.00 in support of the Rosary Society. Thanks to Eileen, Barb, Beth and Judy for serving. There are open Sundays, good causes to support and people ready to attend. What's missing is you. Call John Del Vecchio at 651-221-0871 to arrange hosting your own Coffee for a Cause.

STEWARDSHIP

The phrase in today's Psalm, "May you see your children's children," is really a prayer for a long life. The good steward knows that every day is a gift from God, to be lived with joy and thanksgiving. "May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives!"

Sharing Thanks to stewards of all descriptions: \$9, 023 was given last weekend. For the first 13 weeks of the fiscal year [most of them summertime] the amount given is slightly below [\$1,291] budget. The same figure is \$298 less than last year, but \$2,879 ahead of two years ago; \$4,801 greater than three years ago.

As well, thanks for \$30 in school envelopes; \$15 for the food shelf.

Service: Baking and volunteering at the festival; working at the pie booth; cleaning up after the festival; driving a friend to Mass and then to lunch; helped a person shop for a 'sit-down' walker so she can walk outside.

Prayer: Prayer walk on Harriet Island; participated in prayer chain; family intercessory prayer night; water-only fast on Mondays; daily...Mass, spiritual reading, prayer, rosary, devotions.

Upcoming:

Next weekend—after each Mass—Ministry Fair. [If your group would like to have space to display your ministry, please contact the parish office.]

Parish meeting: Sunday, October 18 from 9:00 to 10:15AM, in the social hall.

Crop Walk—help 'blot out' hunger in all its forms. A group of parishioners will walk on Sunday afternoon, Oct 18. You can sponsor them through a second collection next weekend. You can also walk—assembling at Cherokee Park United Church at 1:00PM.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of October 4, 2009

- Sunday: Gn 2:18-24/Heb 2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12
- Monday: Jon 1:1---2:2, 11/Lk 10:25-37
- Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 10:38-42
- Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11/Lk 11:1-4
- Thursday: Mal 3:13-20b/Lk 11:5-13
- Friday: Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Lk 11:15-26
- Saturday: Jl 4:12-21/Lk 11:27-28
- Next Sunday: Wis 7:7-11/Heb 4:12-13/Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

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 and KLT *Shar LaVelle*
 Bookkeeper *Cindy Hoffman*
 Administrative Assistant *Nicole Johnson*
 Dir. Food Service *Donna Jenniges*
 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
 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