

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Friends:

Last Sunday we began to pray the prayer for the Common Good at the conclusion of the Prayer of the Faithful. A member of the parish stopped me after Mass and asked “just what is the common good”.

This is an important question and our understanding of this concept is important.

The Common Good is a philosophical term originating in pre-Christian times in writers like the Greek philosopher, Aristotle. St. Thomas Aquinas took this concept and used it in his description of the purpose of government.

The common good, to which every aspect of social life must be related if it is to attain its fullest meaning, stems from the dignity, unity and equality of all people. According to its primary and broadly accepted sense, “the common good indicates the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily” (taken from the Second Vatican Council, The Catechism of the Catholic Church, the writings of Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI).

The demands of the common good are strictly connected to respect for and integral promotion of the person and his/her fundamental rights (Catechism of the Catholic Church). These demands concern the commitment to peace, the organization of the State’s powers, a sound judicial system, the protection of the environment, and the provision of essential services for all, some of which at

the same time are human rights; food, housing, work, education, and access to culture, transportation, basic health care, the freedom of communication and expression, and the protection of religious freedom (Second Vatican Council).

“The common good corresponds to the highest of human instincts”. St Thomas Aquinas places “the knowledge of God” and “life in society” at the highest and most specific level of human instincts.

The purpose of government is to guarantee the unity and order of a civil society which exists that the common good may be attained with the contribution of every citizen (Second Vatican Council, the writings of Pope John Paul II).

Government is simply the instrument we create to guarantee the common good of all, and the instrument which guarantees that all participate in the common good.

So, as we choose local and national leadership it is vital to remember that the promotion of the common good of all is the work of public officials, the reason for government and the test of the worthiness of a candidate.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of September 14, 2008

Sunday: Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
Monday: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Lk 7:31-35
Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Lk 7:36-50
Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Lk 8:1-3
Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Lk 8:4-15
Next Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

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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.

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.

EDUCATION AND
FAITH FORMATION NEWS

PINWHEELS FOR PEACE

The middle schoolers of St. Matthew's are joining with the religious education students to participate in Pinwheels For Peace, a worldwide art and literacy project. Students are preparing words of peace and visions of peace on pinwheels and on September 21st the pinwheels will be installed on the Humboldt Ave. boulevard to celebrate World Day of Peace (which is also the Feast of St. Matthew). The installation will take place at 9:45 a.m. between the eight and ten-thirty Masses. All are welcome to join us as our pinwheels spread "Whirled Peace." For more information contact Lynn Volkenant at the school, 224-6912.

SINGERS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS: WE NEED YOU!!!

Rehearsals have begun and are on going. So far we are groups of approximately 20-25 singers and instrumentalists who are willing to make a commitment to the work of liturgy and music at St. Matthew's 3 weekend liturgies (plus other special celebrations.) This is your invitation to join us as we continue to grow in faith, have fun and become part of a small community within this faith community. No auditions! Just come to the rehearsals!

The **Adult Choir** rehearses on **Wednesdays from 7-8:15** in the Church. Fall rehearsals begin on Sept. 10.

Humm-Dingers! (Grades 4-8) Rehearsals start on **Wednesday October 8 from 5:00-6:15.**

The **Guitar Group** practices one hour before their scheduled liturgies. This group plays once a month, rotating between the 5 and 10:30 masses. Call Bonnie at the parish office if you are interested in this group. All instruments welcome.

Questions? Call Bonnie at the parish office, 651-224-9793.

ASSOCIATES OF ST. MARY'S CLINICS' CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Bring your friends, relatives, and neighbors to our Christmas card sale! There will be hundreds of selections from several national printers: Sympathy Cards, Note Cards, Get Well Cards, Thanksgiving Cards, and 2009 Calendars are also available. The sale will take place on Thursday, October 9 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Dorothy Bade's house, 668 Ohio Street, St. Paul. All proceeds benefit the St. Mary's Health Clinics, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph. For more information or to schedule a private showing, call: Jan Driscoll 651-747-8090 or Mary K. Ryan 651-224-2772. Your purchase will help St. Mary's Health Clinics provide free medical care to the uninsured of the Twin Cities.

"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so he who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. - Jn. 3:14-16

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

THIS WEEK AT
SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday 9:00 AM, PC 4:00 PM, MC	September 14 Finance Committee Confirmation Class
Monday 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, XC	September 15 Loaves and Fishes Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday 3:00 PM, SH	September 16 Loaves and Fishes
Wednesday 9:00 AM, MC 12:00-7:00 PM, PC 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, SC 7:00 PM, MC	September 17 School Mass St. Mary's Clinic Loaves and Fishes Religious Education, Grades 1-10 Adult Choir
Thursday 3:00 PM, SH 6:30 PM, SC	September 18 Loaves and Fishes Girl Scout Meeting
Friday	September 19
Saturday	September 20
Saint Matthew's Fall Festival	
Sunday	September 21
Saint Matthew's Fall Festival	

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

On this feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross there are parts of the readings that speak particularly to us stewards: God so loved the world that He sent His only Son [and he sends us in an analogous way]; the world will be saved through Him [and through us in the same analogous way].

And, as Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be exploited, so too, we, faithful stewards, don't rest on our laurels but rather work hard to seek analogous equality with God in our next life.

Thanks for weekly witness and invitation to stewardship... "if they can do, I might be able to as well."

Prayer: ten hours of prayer in the last week...daily Mass... daily rosary...prayer for a successful fall festival...spiritual reading every day...two hours of adoration

Service: brought Eucharist to the homebound...served at Loaves and Fishes...served at a funeral lunch...ministered as money counter...helped another person clean their home

Sharing last weekend [yea; first Sunday of the month]: \$12,412. Thank you. The year to date total is \$92,756-- \$2,256 over budget AND \$5,457 greater than last year [10 weekends]; \$5,802 greater than two years ago, same amount of time.

Also, thanks for \$938 in school envelopes and plate; \$15 in holyday envelopes and \$5 for the food shelf. Each of these will be used as directed.

Young People's Stewardship: \$10.00 Thank you! They wrote: Prayed for a good school year for me and my sister; mealtime prayers, helped my little cousin.

THANKS for the anonymous festival lead gift (\$300) given last weekend. Festival Needs:

- PRAY for good weather
- PLAN to attend one or both days
- BRING a healthy appetite for both tacos [Sat] and chicken dinner [Sun]
- BAKE some goodies for the Rosary Society booth
- BUY raffle tickets
- BOTTLES are needed [clean/filled, either newly purchased or with some goodies within]
- STUFF for Silent Auction, baskets, or garage sale are needed
- TOYS and other children's prizes
- GAMES for youth and children invite all on Sunday
- MUSIC to listen and dance to—Saturday evening
- SIGN up for a work shift—or two.
- BINGO will be played both days
- CARD tournaments [cribbage and Texas Hold 'Em] Saturday evening

Please consider doing one or more of the above. More participation will make it even more fun and more of a community event.

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*Shar Lavelle*
 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	Anthony Minus
Jason Delmont	Mark Thomford
Tony Palmer	Chris Stevens
Joyce Osborne	Stephen Adrian