

The Community of St. Matthew

St. Matthew's School Marathon for Non-Public Education Friday, October 3

Father Steve joins St. Matthew's students as they prepare to walk the marathon this Friday, October 3. All these students have been busy collecting pledges but Father Steve needs your help. Look for St. Matthew's School students after each of this weekend's Masses. They will cheerfully accept your donations for Father Steve. Look for our students, families, faculty, staff, and Father Steve next Friday as they walk to Cherokee Park.



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

Dear Saint Matthew Community and Friends:

Five weeks from now we go to the polls to elect national and local leadership. A society can remain free only if its citizens take seriously the responsibility to choose wise and prudent leadership; and this “work of citizenship” demands our being informed and engaged in the election process.

Each registered household of the parish will soon receive a 36 page booklet authored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops called Forming Consciences For Faithful Citizenship.

In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided by our moral convictions. Catholics often feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to human life and dignity.

Casting a ballot involves a moral choice. In casting a ballot one is articulating support for the policies and programs of a particular candidate as the *best opportunity available* to advance the common good of all. While there is no perfect candidate, we seriously study the issues and vote for the candidate who best reflects our commitment to the common good.

Casting a ballot is an act of conscience. “Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. . . . [Every person] is obliged to follow faithfully what he [or she] knows to be just and right” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1778).

As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate’s position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter’s support.

The basic right to life implies and is linked to other human rights to the goods that every person needs to live and thrive—including food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work. The use of the death penalty, hunger, lack of health care or housing, human trafficking, the human and moral costs of war, and unjust immigration policies are some of the

serious moral issues that challenge our consciences and require us to act.

I challenge and encourage you to give time and energy during the month of October to seriously prepare to cast a ballot November 4th.

Read the Faithful Citizenship booklet and engage family and friends in conversation.

I will preach during the month of October on some of the principals involved in Faithful Citizenship

And there will be an opportunity for parish members to meet and reflect together between the Sunday Masses on October 19th.

The Church has no right or responsibility to tell people for whom to vote. The responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience.

The Church’s obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. Faith helps us see more clearly the truth about human life and dignity that we also understand through human reason. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ’s commandment to “love one another” (Jn 13:34). According to Pope Benedict XVI, “charity must animate the entire lives of the faithful and therefore also their political activity, lived as ‘social charity’” (Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, no. 29).

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS

BENEFIT DINNER FOR CHILDREN OF ROMANIA

An authentic Romanian dinner will be served at St Matthew's Catholic Church Social Hall at 490 Hall Ave., St Paul, on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008. Social hour is 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., dinner is served at 12:30 p.m. followed by a 1:00 presentation by the Izvorasul Dance Ensemble. Tickets must be purchased by Oct 19. Adult \$15, child (5-13 yrs) - \$10, under 5yrs- free will offering. Proceeds will help support children living in church sponsored churches and foster homes. Call Rick at 651-455-2174 to purchase tickets.

First Friday, October 3rd

This month First Friday adoration will take place from 7:15 am until 4:00 pm. There will be **no** First Friday mass at 5:15 pm this month.

COFFEE SUNDAY RETURNS

All are invited to the Social Hall after both Sunday masses for the start of the 2008-2009 Coffee Hour season. Thanks to Bob Creamer and Dean Steinbrenner for serving. Volunteers are needed to staff future Coffee Sundays as well. This year marks the beginning of "Coffee For a Cause" where any parish organization/person can host both Sunday coffee hours, bring the treats, promote a cause in keeping with the mission of St. Matthew's and apply the proceeds accordingly. It's a great way to raise awareness and support for your group or a cause. Call John Del Vecchio at 651-221-0871 to set it up or sign up on the "Coffee Sunday" clipboard at the main entrance of the church. Dates are open from November 23 and onward.

SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME CRAFT FAIR

As in other years, SSND's will have a craft fair in Mankato on Saturday, October 11, 2008, 8:30 AM-2:00 PM. Proceeds benefit health care and retirement. Besides wonderful craft items, delicious breads, jams, salsa, there is also a garage sale. This year a bus from St. Matthew's will not be provided. It's a great opportunity to find friends and ride down together for a great day of fun!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Save the date! The Blessing of the Animals will take place on Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 6:15 PM.

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.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of September 28, 2008

Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32
 Monday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Jn 1:47-51
 Tuesday: Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23/Lk 9:51-56
 Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Lk 9:57-62
 Thursday: Jb 19:21-27/Mt 18:1-5, 10
 Friday: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/Lk 10:13-16
 Saturday: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Lk 10:17-24
 Next Sunday: Is 5:1-7/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	September 28
Monday	September 29
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:45 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday	September 30
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
7:00 PM, SC	Boy Scout Committee mtg.
Wednesday	October 1
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
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
7:00 PM, SH	Men's Club Board mtg.
Thursday	October 2
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:45 PM, PC	Parish Council mtg.
Friday	October 3
School Marathon Day!	
7:15 AM-4:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration
Saturday	October 4
Sunday	October 5

Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

The first son in today's gospel said he would do his father's bidding, but did not. The second son balked at first, but then repented and did as he was asked. What service is God calling me to do? Which son am I more like?

Saint Paul challenges the Philippians—and us—to disregard our own interests in favor the interests of others. A steward lives in this challenge constantly: how to use time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of others and ultimately to the honor the God.

Time in prayer: those praying for good festival weather were certainly heard by the Almighty; thank you...also: read the Bible each of 5 mornings; each day: 15 minutes of prayer...spiritual reading...rosary.

Service: thanks to those who served at the festival—and reflected on the gifts that were used for the building up of the Kingdom...who thought about being a visible expression of God's love...and who thought about being a Good Samaritan on the banks of the Mississippi.

Sharing: Thanks to all faithful stewards: \$9366 was given in the usual ways. The year-to-date total of \$110627 is \$2027 greater than budget; \$4292 greater than last year; \$7364 greater than 2 years ago. Thank you.

This past weekend marks the end of the "summer" budget: \$9050 each Sunday. The budget for the next 10 weeks will be \$9650 each weekend.

Also given: \$56 in school envelopes; \$5 for the food shelf; and \$40 for the archdiocesan assessment. Thank you.

Festival Thanks...to everyone for everything. A full report will be made in a week or two [we'll attempt an exhaustive list of all workers in the report]; but success abounded last Saturday and Sunday: ...weather...attendees... workers... food&drink ...fun... games...prizes...baskets...goods... bakery..."stuff"...profits. Thanks to the leaders of all the efforts: Brian and Joyce Osborne [planning, before, during and after], Men's Club [bar and outside food], Rosary Society [bake sale], Sue Nowak and family [taco feed], Pat and Ken Kasheimer [bingo], Sue Holman and family [bottle lotto], Kelly and Joan Lannon [silent auction], Shirley and Larry Smith [garage sale], Mary and John Plante [chicken dinner], Christine Erickson and Joyce Osborne [children's games], Steve Grundei and Wayne Gilbertson [card tournaments], John DelVecchio [sound], Marian Wolters [signs]

Other area festivals—this weekend...please make an effort to support our neighbors. Celebrations at both the Church of Saint Michael [Annapolis and Wallner] and St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church [immediately south of St. Croix Lutheran—formerly, Brady]. Lots of food, fun, and opportunities. Thanks to St. Mike's pastor, Father Ken O'Hotto, and other St. Mike's folks for supporting us last week.

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