

# THE GOOD NEWS

FROM ST. MATTHEW

The community of St. Matthew exists in the world as a visible expression of God's love.



## Reunion Sunday Is Now Reunion Saturday!

Join us on  
Saturday, May 17,  
4 pm Mass

Followed by  
reception and pasta  
dinner in St. Matt's  
Social Hall.

RSVP's requested –  
call 651-457-2510.

See back page  
for details.

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## COS Parents Step Up to Build School Community

From the Editor: *There are few things as important to a school's success as having the support of involved parents. In this issue we meet parents who share a deep commitment to Catholic education and who are working to keep it strong in our community. The parents featured represent just a few of the many who have chosen to step up and help make Community of Saints (COS) a success. While they are candid about the challenges, they are uniformly upbeat and resolute, expressing can-do confidence about the school's future.*

**"It's important to make a difference here."**

Tiffany Rivera-Prescott

Home & School (H&S) is the official parent group for COS. When Tiffany Rivera-Prescott became the H&S secretary last year, the first step was to bring parents from three different schools together and find common ground.

"Home & School supports activities that don't necessarily fall within the school budget but that are really important," Tiffany explained. When parents first met last year, they reviewed H&S's role at each of the combining schools, then made a plan for what they should do at COS. The result has been a mix of old and new traditions for everyone. Her favorite is the Halloween dance, which she observes, is a new event for St. Matt's families.

Tiffany is also responsible for coordinating H&S volunteers to work at St. Matt's Lenten fish fry. "H&S gets a portion of the proceeds thanks to the amazing support of the St. Matt's Men's Club."

Tiffany works at Neighborhood House and both her job and volunteer work reflect what's important to her. "I've grown up on the West Side and continue to live and raise my family here," Tiffany said. "This is home. It's important to make a difference here and you do that by investing in where your children go to school."

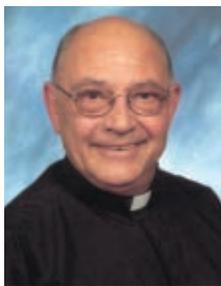


COS parent Tiffany Rivera-Prescott with Frank in 6th grade and Ana in 3rd grade.

Tiffany admits that bringing the parents together from the different schools last year was challenging but she thinks H&S is going strong now. "You need to go through the cycle a couple of times so you see what works and what doesn't," she observed. "We're getting ready to close on our second year and I feel like we're building a foundation we can grow on."

Tiffany's convinced the school represents a unique opportunity for parents. "We can make it whatever we want to make it," she said, referring to the school. But, she adds, the stakes are high. "This needs to continue. There is no other Catholic school for our kids."

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**Dear Saint Matthew School Alums and Friends:**

After more than a year I am still mesmerized by Pope Francis and the enthusiasm with which he is received throughout the world — both among Catholic and non-Catholic. Pundits have tried over the year to analyze why Pope Francis has captured the attention of the world.

Pope Francis has not accomplished a huge agenda; what he has done is perform the ordinary with extraordinary grace. He is an example of how one person, doing the ordinary well and with enthusiasm, can change the world. Mother Teresa of Calcutta did the same.

This issue of the *Good News* profiles five parents of children in our school. They are enthusiastic and committed; they bring their energy in very different and yet ordinary ways to support the work of quality education and community.

So often people minimize the impact they have on others, communities and institutions. Sometimes people say, "What difference does it make. I am only one person."

I am reminded of the story of Jesus in the 5th chapter of Saint Matthew's Gospel. Jesus climbs a hill and crowds of people follow him. When he gets to the top of the mountain he sits down and begins to teach the people. He looks at those people following him. He sees old and young, rich and poor, strong and weak, believers and skeptics, healthy and sick, city dwellers and country cousins. He sees ordinary, garden-variety people. He says to them, "You are the salt of the earth;

you are the light of the world." Jesus recognizes in each of those people the ability to make a difference, and for most, to do this in very ordinary ways.

Pope Francis is trying to teach us the same lesson: do not be judgmental, treat the poor and sick as your family members, use the gift of the earth well and do not be greedy; be humble, work hard, take responsibility, make friends with those on the margin, be a loving and just person.

Parents model these values, teachers encourage these values, Community of Saints provides an opportunity for West Side students and families to experience that what they do and who they are makes a difference.

Your generosity is what makes all of this possible. I encourage you to be generous. Don't say, "I'm just one person, my gift doesn't amount to much." I remind you, "You are the salt of the earth."

God bless you,  
Stephen Adrian  
Saint Matthew Pastor Retired

**Thanks for Your Support!**

**John Mauerer  
Donated Stock Funds Tuition Assistance**

Last year, John Mauerer contributed stock worth almost \$6,000 to support tuition assistance at Community of Saints. Over the past five years, John's stock contributions have totaled nearly \$15,000. His gift made a big difference to families who could not have afforded the tuition without help. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank John for his efforts to make a difference in the lives of these children.

**Bohrer Family — The Family That Gives Together**

Instead of exchanging names at Christmas, the Bohrer family pools their funds to make a group gift somewhere they think it will make a difference. This year they decided to help families in our community who need help affording Catholic school for their children. Thanks for supporting A&F Tuition Assistance!



**FRONT ROW:** Jaclyn Eller, Jennifer Roers, Darline Bohrer, Steve Richardson, Angela Richardson, Denise (Ferber) Bohrer '73, Jim Bohrer '72, Roxann Eller

**BACK ROW:** Calley Roers, Derek Roers, Jeanie (Bohrer) Roers '71, Ryan Bohrer, Harry Roers, Tim Bellon, Beth Bellon, Chuck Bohrer '70, Jerry Eller



**Helping Children Make a Difference**

**Parent-volunteer Tiffany Rivera-Prescott helps COS students transport donations from the school's food drive to Neighborhood House's food shelf.**

# 7th & 8th Grade Girls Are UNDEFEATED! COS Girls Earn 3 Championships: City, Twin City & South Metro



1st row, left to right: Aliah Lopez, Lili Silva, Bonita Franco, Tiana Ivy, Serena Monita, Kianna Volp

2nd row, left to right: Assistant Coach Shannon Grazzini, Allie Reding, Kayla Maloney, Autam Mendez, Peggy Lee Dunn, Paige Goaley, Head Coach Santino Franco

**C**ongratulations to the COS 7th & 8th grade girls team who swept the 8th grade basketball playoffs this year, bringing home three trophies for the school. While the girls did a great job, they didn't do it entirely on their own. They had a superior coaching team, supportive parents, and the financial support of St. Matt's Men's Club, who bought the uniforms last year and who are major contributors to COS athletics. So thanks to everyone who helped make it a great season!



### Parents Matter

**ABOVE:** It takes a village to raise a basketball team — COS parents with daughters after winning City Championship.



**LEFT:** COS parent Santino Franco coached the girls' basketball team to an undefeated season. He is pictured here with his daughter Bonita, who plays point guard.



Row 6 | Judy Stadt, Janice Mosberger, Christine Rasmussen, Jane Ringold, Richard Patrick, David Landsberger, Donald Sauvageau, Gregory Lorch, Richard Arneberg, Michael Gillespie, Richard Sellner, Michael Patrick, Steve Stelter, George Ewald, Linda Duerscherl, Christine Peterson, Patricia Maher, Linda Egner.

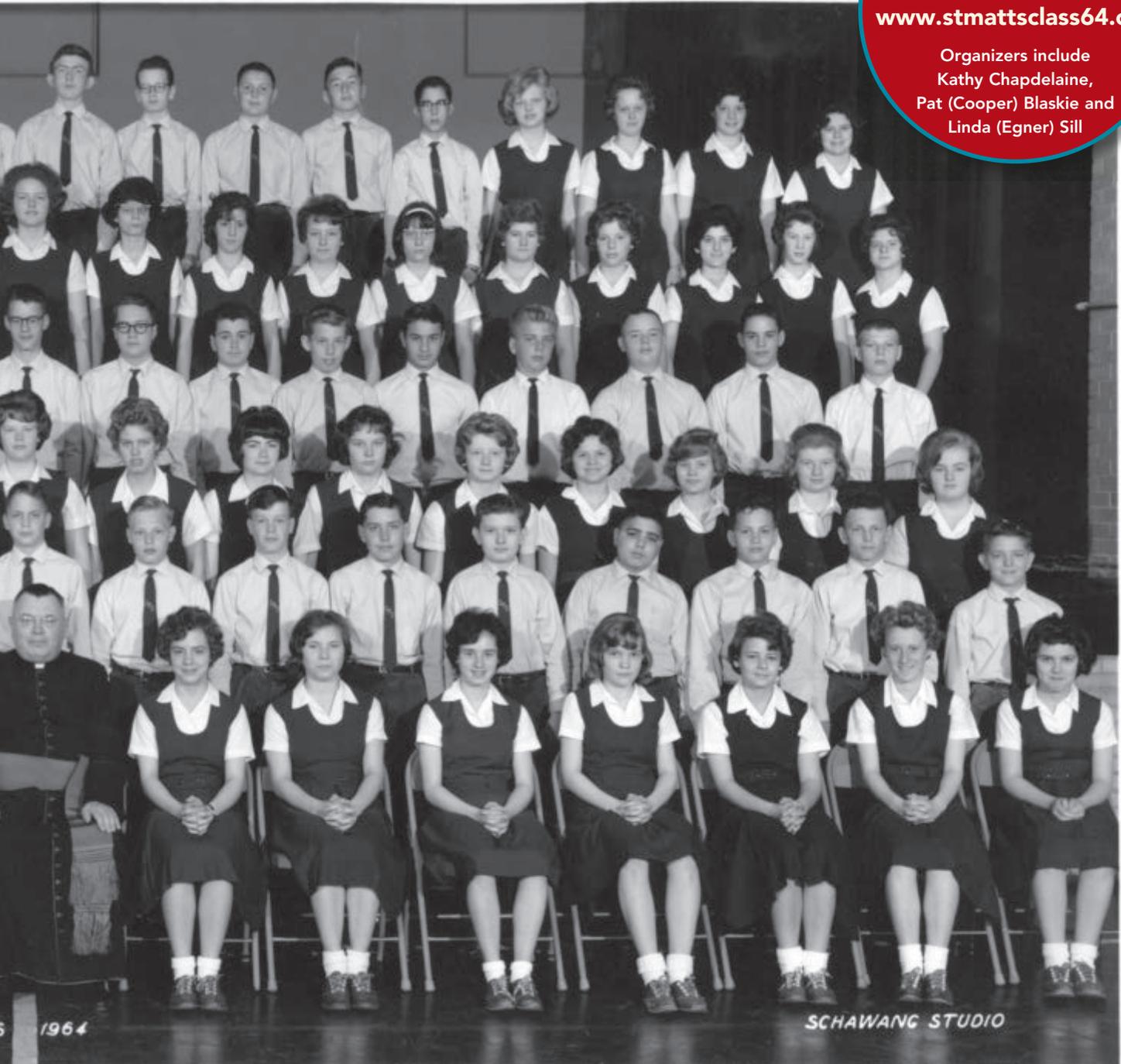
Row 5 | Louise Blissenbach, Jean Diedrich, Gail Schmidt, Michelle Mooney, Kathleen Johnson, Diane Engen, Diane Blomgren, Cheryl Frank, JoLynn Schwartz, Carol Dufour, Kathleen Maher, Donna Duffy, Rosemarie Rahn, Cynthia Michaelsen, Marjorie Bandholz, Darlyne Johnson, Marilyn Casalenda, Susan Robinette.

Row 4 | Edward Viktora, Robert Gurrola, Joseph Hinze, James Reuter, Tom Ricci, Joe Schafer, Tom Trettel, Jerome Kisch, Gregory Korman, Paul Frank, Bill Gross, Scott Burdash, George Becker, Timothy Tabor, Tom Wilfahrt, David Wazlawik, John Wallin.

# Class of 1964

For Class of '64  
Reunion Information,  
Visit  
[www.stmattsclass64.org](http://www.stmattsclass64.org)

Organizers include  
Kathy Chapdelaine,  
Pat (Cooper) Blaskie and  
Linda (Egner) Sill



Row 3 | Billie Berthiaume, Rita Kabesh, Cheryl Bateman, Susan Beran, Mary Lynn Markus, Patricia Stoven, Barbara Wanger, Mary Horsch, Patricia Cooper, Christine Quehl, Michelle Ross, Gail Zaun, Christine Burns, Susan Wessel, Carol Haas, Mary Michaelson, Kathleen Chapdelaine.

Row 2 | Michael Ring, Gary Plantenberg, Robert Haffely, Michael Hill, Tom Fischbach, Mark Tackaberry, Michael Ernst, Richard Gabriel, Richard Duerscherl, Dennis Benoe, Greg Kuhns, Bill Thompson, Jerome Whebbe, Greg Padelford, Bill Peter, Kenneth Scherado.

Row 1 | Patricia Schwartz, Diane Bauer, Nancy Kueppers, Margarita Abel, Cynthia Korsell, Martha Riehle, Rose Ann Thul, Msgr. Cecka, Linda Osterman, Bernadette Bobick, Barbara Lotzer, Susan Schadegg, Marianne Patient, Mary Lu Leibl, Mary Ann Lancette. Not pictured: Stephen Shaughnessy.

Feature story continued from page 1



COS parent Cathy Goaley with Paige in 7th grade and Tate in 4th.

***“This is where our Catholic leaders will come from.”***

### Cathy Goaley

Cathy Goaley is an avid sports fan. She went to college at St. Benedict to play basketball and now spends a lot of her free time attending her children’s sports events. She was cheering loudly when the COS girls team, which her daughter plays on, won the Catholic Athletic Association City Championship.

It’s no surprise then that Cathy’s favorite volunteer activity is organizing COS’ intramural basketball program for 3rd and 4th grade boys and girls. “It’s instructional basketball,” Cathy said. “Skills, drills and thrills.”

Cathy is the organizer and part-time instructor along with school parent Jody Garcia.

Cathy also serves on the School Advisory Committee as well as the Advancement Committee where she led the effort to distribute yard signs promoting the school. “I like being able to drive around town and see those signs for COS,” Cathy said. “You can see them in St. Paul, West St. Paul, South St. Paul, Inver Grove Heights — it’s a visual reminder that this is a regional school.”

Cathy believes regionalizing is the only sustainable path forward for Catholic education in the area. That’s important because her goal is for COS to be going strong 50 years from now. “This is the future of Catholic education,” Cathy said, referring to COS. “This is where our Catholic leaders will come from.”

Cathy admits her enthusiasm for Catholic education is only rivaled by her enthusiasm for Catholic school athletics. “It’s a big, positive event for a new school to come together and get a championship out of it,” she said, reflecting on the girls’ undefeated season. “When you look at how far Community of Saints has come in two years with all the challenges we’ve faced, it shows a championship-level effort by our school community.”

***“Just because the campus has changed doesn’t change the mission.”***

### Jenny Benton

Jenny Benton started looking at Catholic schools after her daughter’s first year in public school. When she heard about plans for the regional school, it sounded great. To her it meant a bigger school with more resources and a diverse mix of students, where her daughter would not be the only child with a Latino name or with parents who spoke Spanish at home.

For Jenny, student diversity ranks right up there with strong academics and she thinks COS delivers both. “It’s very important to us that Fabiana be comfortable with many different people from different backgrounds,” Jenny explained. “Working class, middle class and upper class — because that’s what life is. That’s why we chose COS.”

Jenny believes that for the school to thrive, parents like her need to reach out to the community and showcase what COS has to offer. “It’s a benefit to the whole community to have a Catholic school here that offers education in a loving, caring, respectful environment,” she said. “We just need to get the word out.”

To do that, her family has joined Our Lady of Guadalupe and is helping to build awareness of the school among parishioners. The experience has provided an opportunity for Jenny to renew her own faith. While she was baptized as a Catholic, Jenny was not raised in the faith so she and her daughter have been learning together. “I’ll ask Fabiana questions,” Jenny said, “Like, ‘Why do we do this?’ and Fabiana may not know, but then she can find out at school and tell me later. It really strengthens our faith.”

Jenny recognizes the mixed feelings that families and alums from the three combining schools may have toward COS. But she hopes the people who supported St. Matts and the other schools in the past continue to support COS now. “Just because the campus has changed, doesn’t change the mission,” she said earnestly. “COS is reaching students who would never have the opportunity to get a high quality, Catholic education. I hope people see the school deserves their continued support.”



COS Parent Jenny Benton with daughter Fabiana Vasquez in 3rd grade.

COS parents Tesa and Paul Ramos with Maria in 6th grade, Bella in 4th grade and Lorenzo in kindergarten.



***“Having our values reinforced... is so important.”***

### Tesa and Paul Ramos

For Paul and Tesa Ramos, being involved at COS is all about living their Catholic values and setting a good example for their children. For the past two years, Tesa has served on the School Advisory Committee, which she currently chairs, as well as the Advancement Committee. Paul, who played baseball for the University of St. Thomas, helps coach the girls 5-6th grade softball team.

“As Catholics, we believe we have a responsibility to give the gift of time, talent and treasure,” Tesa explained. “Paul is sharing his gifts, but it’s a challenge because he has never coached girls before.”

Tesa also believes that you can’t assume someone else will do it. “I knew there were going to be challenges bringing these schools together,” Tesa said. “I wanted to have a voice and be part of the solution.”

While Paul attended St. Mikes, Tesa attended a suburban public school. “There’s a big difference,” she said referring to the school she went to and COS. “Having our values reinforced at school and having the strong academics is so important.”

From her perspective, she thinks COS is on the right track. “We’re in the second year, we’re more connected as a community and more people are helping to make it work.” But, she cautions, it takes time. “We’re forging new positive experiences. Instead of thinking about letting go of the old, we should look at how we’re creating something new.”

Tesa would like to see more opportunities for parents to get to know each other. She thinks the work Paul is doing to build the school’s team sports will help do that. “It’s something that brings everyone together.”

***“You have to help make it successful.”***

### Brad and Beth Tressell

Brad Tressell is perfectly clear about why he and his wife Beth invest their time at COS. “We believe in Catholic education and the Catholic faith,” he states. “This is a new venture. For it to work, you have to help make it successful.”

Beth nods in agreement. “The kids love it,” she said. “They’re doing well, they’re learning and they like to hug when they see each other there.”

The Tressells have volunteered for the school since before it even existed. Brad has served on a number of committees over the last two years and helped set up and maintain COS’s website, which he continues to update.

Beth has taken on the role of the school’s Facebook editor and updates the site every week. “I post the Thursday newsletter and anything that seems pertinent, like announcements about school closings, busing and community service,” she explained.

Beth also put together a basket for the teachers this winter with the very appropriate theme of “Stay Warm and Well.” In a practical show of appreciation, the basket included a variety of items such as Clementine oranges, tea and hot chocolate packets.

Brad likes the idea of his children developing long-lasting friendships like those that grew out of his own experience attending Catholic school. “I had eight plus years growing up with my friends,” he said. “I’ve got a ton of history and relationships with people as a result. We want that for our kids.”

Beth describes herself as a public school kid and talks about the importance of a caring, welcoming environment. “We want COS to be a place where kids who are on the fringes don’t feel so far out on the fringes — where any kid at any level can come in and feel like they still have a place. We want to encourage that”

This time Brad nods in agreement, “We’re big encouragers.”



COS parents Brad and Beth Tressell with Mari in 4th grade, Rosalyn in 1st grade, Alex in pre-K and Jenna who starts pre-K next fall.



**ALUMS & FRIENDS**  
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### St. Matt's Alums — Watch Your Mail!

We're updating our mailing list and need your help. In the coming weeks we'll be sending you a mailing asking for your help to update the names, addresses and current status of your classmates. Please help us reach all our alums so they have a chance to reconnect. Watch your mail — it'll be coming soon!

**THE Good  
News**  
FROM ST. MATTHEW

The Good News is published quarterly by Alums & Friends of St. Matthew's

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*Save the Date!*

## St. Matthew's Alums & Friends Invite You to Reunion Saturday

**May 17, 2014**

Join us for 4 pm Mass  
 St. Matthew's Church  
 490 Hall Avenue, St. Paul

Following Mass, we'll host a reception  
 and pasta dinner in the Social Hall.



Everyone is welcome. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate Catholic education in our community. There is no charge but please RSVP so we know how many guests to expect.



**We extend a special invitation to those in the  
 anniversary classes of:**

**1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979,  
 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009**

**For more  
 information  
 or to  
 RSVP,  
 please call  
 651-457-2510**