



THE GOOD NEWS

March/April 2012
Issue 29

FROM ST. MATTHEW

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

Families "Get on Board" with Community of Saints Regional Catholic School

**Reunion Sunday
May 6th
Mass & Brunch**

We will also be recognizing St. Matt's former teachers.

Join us for 10:30 a.m. Mass followed by a light brunch. All alums are welcome with special recognition for those who graduated in a year ending in "7" or "2."

Parent Works to Bring What's Great at St. Matt's to New School

Tara Perron faced an unusual challenge this year when her family doubled in size. In addition to her two boys, ages five and eight, she and her partner recently were awarded custody of two girls, the same age as her sons, who they'd been caring for as foster children. The girls, who came from Redwood Falls, MN, after the school year had already begun last fall, were enrolled in public school once they arrived and entered the foster care system.

Tara's boys attend St. Matt's but the girls have continued at the public school. Even though she prefers St. Matt's, Tara didn't switch schools after she was awarded custody because she didn't want them to have to deal with any more changes in their lives. But she's

already registered the boys for the Regional School next year and would like to send the girls there as well. "I like the close knit feel we have here at St. Matt's," says Tara. "At my girls' school, they don't have that. They get overlooked sometimes and that never happens here at St. Matt's."

Looking ahead to next year, she's confident that what makes St. Matt's great, can be transferred to the Regional School, especially with the choice of St. Matt's principal, Doug Lieser, as president.

Tara came to St. Matt's through her partner, Jose Garcia, who graduated from the school in 1994, as did his mother, Mary Burth, who still lives on the West Side. Fr. Adrian baptized both of their boys and they are members of the parish. With her older son in 2nd grade and her younger son in kindergarten, Tara has become an active

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3 Introducing Fr. Michael Rudolph

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Fr. Michael Rudolph gets crazy with St. Matt's first graders on a recent visit during Catholics schools week. He happened to stop by on Dress-Your-Best day. See pg. 3 to learn more about St. Matt's next pastor.



Fr. Steve's homilies are available on-line at www.st-matts.org

Fr. Steve's 70th Birthday is April 15!

Join us as we celebrate with cake after each service that weekend (Saturday, 4 p.m., Sunday 8 & 10:30 a.m.) If you can't make it, we invite you to shower Fr. Steve with birthday cards. Send them to: St. Matthew's Church, 490 Hall Ave, St. Paul, MN 55107, or email to AlumniNews@St-Matts.org.



Dear Saint Matthew Alums and Friends:

As you well know, Saint Matthew's School is launched onto a new and exciting opportunity. Our school has joined with Saint Michael's and Saint John Vianney to form a regional Catholic school which will guarantee a strong sustainable opportunity for Catholic education for decades to come.

Four parishes are the sponsors of this Regional School: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Saint John Vianney, Saint Matthew and Saint Michael.

Two months ago we undertook a process to name our Regional School. School families and parish members were invited to suggest names; the Advancement committee said that the new name could not be any one of the present school names, nor could it be the name of any existing Catholic school in the Archdiocese. The name must be new!

Dozens of names were suggested; five finalists were chosen; students from all three schools were asked to rank the five names indicating their preference; the top three names were submitted to the school board.

The school board accepted the first choice of students — **Community of Saints Regional Catholic School**.

The Community of Saints may represent the patrons of all four sponsoring parishes: Saint Mary, Saint John, Saint Matthew and Saint Michael.

I suggest another significance to the name. In his letters Saint Paul refers to the various communities of believers as "saints of God". In the first and second generation of Christian life the disciples of Jesus, the followers of Jesus were known as "saints."

A central piece of our mission is the education and formation of young people as disciples of Jesus and witnesses to God's love and compassion for all people. That is what saints do!

Saints are Christian heroines and heroes of yesterday; they are also followers of Jesus today.

Saint Matthew's School participates in a community of schools seeking to educate for the future of our church and our society. We participate in a Community of Saints entrusted with the Good News of God's saving love for all. We are witnesses to God's goodness in our own lives. We exist in the world as a visible expression of God's love. We ARE a Community of Saints.

Yours truly,
Stephen Adrian, Pastor

Meet the Administration for Community of Saints Regional Catholic School

The Regional School's Board of Directors has chosen an interim administration to serve for the first year of operation for Community of Saints Regional Catholic School. They have named St. Matthew's principal, Doug Lieser (center) as president, St. John Vianney's principal, Pat Gannon (left) as school principal and Maryana Charley, St. Michael's principal, as assistant principal. The three were chosen because they know the community, the students and families of the three schools and are held in high regard by all of them. Next year, a search will be undertaken to fill the positions permanently for the 2013-14 school year and current staff will be expected to apply. In the meantime, the administrative team has begun the process of hiring school staff.



FR. MICHAEL RUDOLPH St. Matthew's Next Pastor

This summer when Fr. Steve Adrian retires, the pastoral duties will be assumed by Fr. Michael Rudolph, the current pastor of St. Michael's, as part of the clustering of the two parishes. It is unusual for a parish to know so far in advance who their next priest will be. We'd like to take advantage of the opportunity to introduce him.



Why He Goes by Fr. Rudolph:

"I feel using my last name is more personal. There are lots of Fr. Mike's around but I'm the only Fr. Rudolph."

Fr. Michael Rudolph

Age: 55

Number of years as a priest: 7

Pastoral Experience:

- Pastor of St. Michael's in West St. Paul from June, 2011 to the present.
- Associate pastor at St. Michael in St. Michael, MN for two years
- Pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle in Corcoran, MN for four years.

Occupation Before Joining the Seminary:

Fr. Rudolph worked for the postal service for 19 years and was a letter carrier for his last 15 years there.

Personal Background: He was married for 13 years and adopted his stepson who is now 42 years old.

Family Background: He spent most of his childhood in the Twin Cities and graduated from Minneapolis Central High School. His father was a history professor at the University of Minnesota, is now retired and living in California. His mother is a visual artist and continues to live in the Twin Cities. He has a brother and a sister.

Spiritual Journey: Fr. Rudolph grew up in a non-religious family. His father's family was Jewish but he did not practice the faith. His mother's family had a Quaker background but she is agnostic.

Fr. Rudolph became interested in religion when he was in high school and fellow students invited him to a youth Christian event. It spurred his interest and he began to read the bible and explore other beliefs including Native American spiritual traditions and Buddhism. Through his study of the bible, he was strongly

attracted to St. Matthew's Gospel and the Book of Revelation. As a young man, he was baptized as an Evangelical Protestant.

In the early 80's, he started attending Catholic Mass at St. Stanislaus and began to meet and discuss Catholicism with the pastor, Fr. Clay. A year later, Fr. Clay confirmed him in the Faith.

He continued to explore Christianity by attending an Episcopal church, but in the mid 90's, as his marriage ended, he renewed his interest in Catholicism and considered entering the priesthood. He met with a spiritual director who had been recommended to him and took classes at St. Agnes before entering the seminary in 1999. He graduated from the seminary in 2005.

His View About Being on the Board of Directors for the Regional School: "Serving on the Board really brings home the truth that two heads are better than one. People on the board feel free to disagree respectfully. When we need to, we vote and move forward with majority opinion. Members work well together."

What He Sees as the Strengths of the New School:

"The different traditions of the three schools coming together is a real strength. The school name, Community of Saints, expresses that beautifully. Other strengths of the school include its strong Catholic identity, the strong spirit of volunteerism that exists among parents, the good administrative team we have, and lastly, the strong community support for the school from alums and others who value Catholic education in this community."

One of His Favorite Bible Verses:

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.

ROMANS 8:28



St. Matt's Students Take Cultural Trip — See Different Side of the Cities

Last December, St. Matthew's 8th grade class took a four-day "Cultural Class Trip." The event was designed for students to experience the Twin Cities in a way they never had before. The action-packed itinerary included visits to some of area's most significant cultural, performance and culinary destinations. The students needed to dress appropriately. For the four day trip, boys were expected to wear dress shirts and ties and girls wore dress slacks or skirts. Most days they got around by chartered bus with the exception of one day when they relied on public transportation just to see what that was like. The only time they left the metro area was when they volunteered at a horse rescue farm in Zimmerman, MN, where the students cleaned out horse stalls. That was also the only day they got to wear jeans on the trip.

Because the students expressed an interest in learning about other world religions, built into the schedule were visits to a Buddhist Temple, a Jewish Synagogue, an Islamic Center and the Basilica of St. Mary. They never made it to the Islamic Center because the visit was scheduled for public transportation day and they got on the wrong bus. But that was the only activity on the 4-day schedule that they missed, which when you look over the itinerary, is pretty impressive.

Recently, eighth grade students Amelia Franco, Jared Garibay, Pilar Garcia and Jaylan Brown got together and shared some of their thoughts about the trip. They agreed about some things (The play, *Charlie's Aunt* was funny, *The Nutcracker* was boring) and disagreed about others (whether or not Japanese food was good). Here's some of what they had to say.

Itinerary for 8th Grade Class Cultural Trip

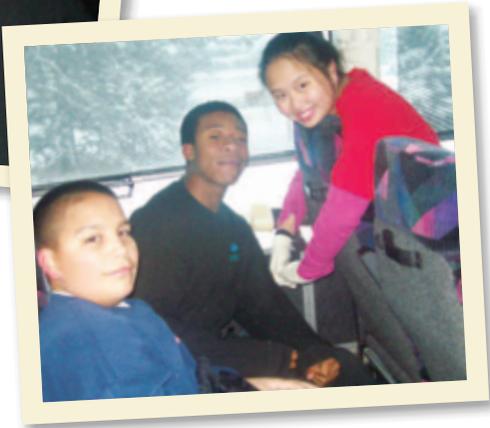
- Day 1**
 8 a.m. Meet at St. Matt's
 8:30 a.m. Gangster Tour
 10:50 a.m. Minneapolis Institute of Art Lunch in Café
 1:45 p.m. The Nutcracker at the Orpheum
 4:30 p.m. Hotel Check in
 6:00 p.m. Dinner at Santorini's Restaurant (Greek)
 7:40 p.m. Comedy Cabaret at Chanhassen Dinner Theater
 10:30 p.m. Return to Hotel
- Day 2**
 6:30 a.m. Board Bus
 8:00 a.m. Horse Rescue Farm in Zimmerman, MN
 2:00 p.m. Return to hotel to change clothes
 3:30 p.m. Buddhist Center
 5:15 p.m. Tour and Mass and The Basilica of St. Mary
 8:00 p.m. Dinner at Fuji Ya (Japanese)
 9:30 p.m. Return to hotel
- Day 3 — Public Transportation Day**
 10:00 a.m. Minneapolis Central Library in Downtown
 12:40 p.m. Lunch at the Midtown Global Market
 2:30 p.m. Temple Israel
 4:10 p.m. Islamic Center (Missed this appointment due to transportation problems.)
 6:15 p.m. Dinner at Mall of America
 9:15 p.m. Return to hotel
- Day 4**
 10:00 a.m. Hotel Checkout
 10:30 a.m. University of St. Thomas
 2:00 p.m. Minnesota State Capitol
 4:45 p.m. Dinner at Hotel Sofitel (French)
 7:15 p.m. Charlie's Aunt at the Guthrie (Afterwards went backstage and met performers.)
 10:30 p.m. Returned to St. Matt's





LEFT: Samantha Guevara and Pilar Garcia.

BELOW: Mario Sierra, Teriq Massie and Jessica Lackner on the bus home from the horse rescue farm.



BELOW: Athena Garcia, Jessica Lackner, Teriq Massie and Jonathon Lunan share a booth at the Comedy Cabaret.

ABOVE: Nathaniel Garcia, Freddy Dunn and Mario Solis.



What was your favorite part of the trip?

Amelia: I liked the horse farm. We got to go and see the horses and clean the stalls and feed them. Some of the horses were blind and there was one race horse who broke his foot. The owner just cast him aside, but the lady at the rescue farm took him in and fixed him up.

Jaylan: My favorite thing was the food. I'm used to regular food, like pizza and hot dogs, but I liked what we ate on the trip, including the Japanese, Greek and French food. I liked the variety.

Pilar: My favorite thing was the Comedy Cabaret.

Jaylan: That was my favorite too, and the Gangster Tour.

Jared: I liked being at the hotel and just relaxing, hanging out with friends.

What did you think about the restaurants where you ate?

Jared: I liked the Greek food — it was more familiar. I didn't like the Japanese food. We didn't even know what we were eating.

Jaylan: I thought the Greek food would be bad but it was good. And I liked the Japanese food, too. We ate tempura, sushi, miso soup, wasabi and rice. And at the French restaurant, we had a fancy salad, French onion soup, and Crème Brulee for desert.

Pilar: When we were out (at restaurants or plays) we tried not to be loud. We made sure we were low key. We didn't want to bother other people.

Jaylan: We talked a lot when we were at the hotel and on the bus. But when we were out in public, we were always trying to show respect for others.

The Places They Visited

Amelia: We learned a lot about different religions. We visited a Jewish temple and learned about their scriptures. At the Buddhist temple, we learned they praise everything and reflect on everything. And we went to Mass at the Basilica.

Jared: The downtown library was cool. It had a section for teenagers with snacks, pop and books, and the walls were covered with boards that you could write on and say you were there.

The Dress Code

Jaylan: When we went to the mall this time, I noticed that I got treated differently than when I've been there before. I was dressed nice and I got treated with respect. I saw for myself how the way you dress affects how people react to you.

Pilar: I usually just dress up for special occasions. We're not used to seeing each other dressed nice like that every day. I think we treated each other differently.

What they learned

Jared: It showed us what we're really like outside of school. We got to know other kids that we might not have spent much time with before.

Amelia: It helped us get to know everyone in our class. The trip brought us closer together.

Pilar: I would have to give credit to Ms. Slaten for the trip. Not many teachers would be willing to take 24 students out for four days and go to all these different places. It was a great experience that I don't think any of us will ever forget.

Parents on Board, *continued from page 1*



Tara Perron with sons Isaac Garcia (left) and Jose Garcia Jr.

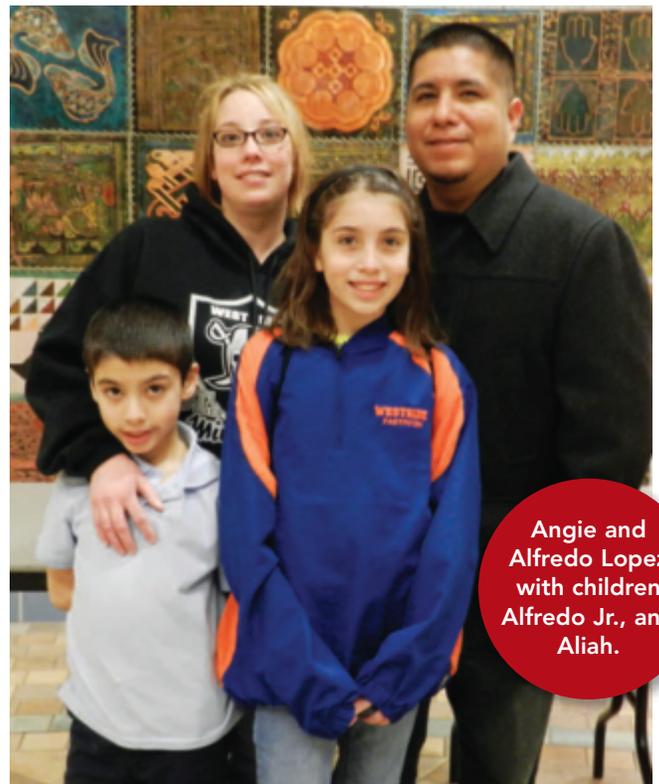
But she knows it will take time. “I think for the first year, everyone will do the best they can,” Tara says. “There will be some trial and error. Whatever doesn’t work, we’ll try to fix it for the following year.”

Her time working with parents from the other schools has given her confidence that the Regional School will be a success. “Parents have the opportunity to get in there and have a say in what’s going on in the school,” Tara says. “If we all come together, it’ll be an easy transition for everybody.”

First Family to Register for Community of Saints

Angela Lopez has two students currently enrolled in St. Matthew’s, a daughter in sixth grade and a son in third. Her children started out in public school, but a few years ago she decided to make a change. Neither she, nor her husband had any connection to St. Matt’s but they agreed to check it out. “We wanted our kids to be in a faith-based school,” Angie explained. “At the time, we lived a block away from St. Matthew’s, so we went to an open house one night. Father Adrian was there and everybody welcomed us. It just felt right.”

She found out that she could enroll her daughter right away, but at the time, her son’s class had a waiting list. Not wanting to split them up, she held off on



Angie and Alfredo Lopez with children Alfredo Jr. and Aliah.

volunteer, chairing the Home and School Committee and helping out in the school office every day from 8 – 10 a.m.

Parents from Three Schools Work Together

Tara’s also doing her part to help pave the way for the Regional School’s success. In her role with Home & School, she’s working with the parent associations from St. Mike’s and St. John’s to host events that bring future classmates and school families together. “We’ve been meeting every week,” Tara says referring to the parent associations from the three schools. “We get along great. So far we’ve planned the Meet & Greet, helped with movie night and organized a sledding event. We’re also hosting a wine tasting and we plan to have a kick ball tournament.” She says the goal of all the activities is to preserve the community feeling she values at St. Matthew’s by helping future classmates and their parents get to know each other. “It’s been going really well,” she adds.

She says her own boys are really excited about the Regional School and while it took a little more time for her to get on board, she feels good about the potential. “I feel like bringing all of our resources together in one school and having a strong Catholic identity in the community will be a great opportunity for all of us,” Tara says.

both and waged a campaign to get her son enrolled. "I harassed Mr. Lieser until they let my son in," Angie jokes. It worked. The school enrolled both children two years ago.

Now Angie's demonstrated her commitment to the Regional School by becoming the first parent at St. Matt's to register her children for Community of Saints. She's confident the new school can be a big success and provide even more opportunities for them. "By having more students together in one school, there'll be more resources for all of them," Angie says. "From those who need extra help, to those considered to be 'gifted and talented.'"

Angie's confidence in the Regional School was boosted by the announcement of the school administration, which named St. Matt's principal as president, but includes the principals of St. Mike's and St. John Vianney as well. "With the administration coming from all three schools, I think they'll make sure it works for all of us," she says. Having Doug Lieser as president, Angie feels reassured that the things she values at St. Matt's will continue on in the new school. "I'm not concerned about big changes that will be negative."

She says her children are even more excited. "Both of my kids say everyone in their class is going to the Regional School. I haven't heard anything negative from them," Angie says. She also thinks the students appreciate the opportunity they've been given to have a say in what the school will be like. "They're helping to make so many decisions like the name, the mascot, and they all have ideas about the uniform. Of course, they all want their teachers, which is the hardest part."

Angie is also looking forward to learning who the teachers will be but she's willing to trust the process. "I think it's okay that we don't have all the answers right now," she says. "We've had to do so much in such a short time. We can't have it go too fast."

Part of what brought Angie to St. Matt's was the fact that she lived one block away from the school and her kids could walk every day. Since then, the family has moved into a house located one block away from St. Michael's school, which is the site of the Regional School. As she looks ahead to the coming year, she takes that as a good sign. "Honestly, I think it's going to work," Angie says. "All four parishes are so committed to Catholic education. This school is going to last for a long time."

Bringing Future Classmates Together

Recently, 6th & 7th grade students from St. Matthew's, St. Michael's and St. John Vianney participated in an event designed to bring the future classmates of the Regional School together to have some fun and get to know each other. The event was the brainchild of Anthony Minus, a middle school teacher at St. Matthew's. "The idea was to find a way to help students from the three schools become better acquainted before they actually come together in the new school next year," said Anthony.

The board agreed, so teachers from St. Matt's & St. Mike's came up with a plan for a lock-in. From 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. all the students went roller skating together. Anthony said it was a good ice breaker. "From all three schools, you had some kids who could skate and some who couldn't," he said. "So it was an opportunity for all the kids to mix and help each other."

After skating, the 6th graders returned to St. Matt's Social Hall to play some games, watch a movie and spend the night. The 7th graders returned to St. Mike's gym to do the same.

Melissa Schisler, a middle school teacher at St. Mike's who stayed with the 7th grade students, thought it went great. "The kids really enjoyed it," Melissa said. "I think it made them feel more comfortable about next year. They had a lot of fun talking to each other."

Participation for the event was high, with over 90% of students from the three schools taking part.

Anthony Minus has planned another student get-together that will mix fun with academics. "We plan to go snow tubing but there'll also be a chance for the students to do some math and science," Anthony explains. "They'll need to calculate the force and acceleration of the tubes going down the hill, as well as determine the slope-intercept." Right...sounds like fun.





**PARISH COMMUNITY OF
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St. Paul, MN 55107

Pastor: Fr. Steve Adrian

Parish Office: 651-224-9793

Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday - 4 p.m.

Sunday - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

www.st-matts.org

EVENTS calendar

MEN'S CLUB HAM BINGO — March 24 from 5-8 p.m.

Play bingo and win a ham in the Social Hall!

LENTEN FISH FRY — Every Friday through March 30, 4-7:30 p.m.

Cost is \$10 per adult, \$6 for kids 5-13, free for kids under 5 yrs. Senior Citizen Special from 4-5 p.m. is \$9.

GOOD FRIDAY FISH & CHIPS DINNER — April 6, 4-7 p.m.

CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS — April 1, 2 p.m. **non sacramental*

HOLY WEEK SERVICES — April 5-8

Holy Thursday Mass, April 5, Celebration at St. Michael's at 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 6, Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Guadalupe at 3 p.m.

Liturgy [Word, prayer, cross, communion] at St. Matthew's at 7 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 7, 8 p.m. Easter Vigil [Word, light, water, table].

Easter Sunday Celebration, April 24, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Mass

FR. STEVE'S 70TH BIRTHDAY — April 15

Join us as we celebrate with cake after each service that weekend (Saturday, 4 p.m., Sunday 8 & 10:30 a.m.) If you can't make it, we invite you to shower Fr. Steve with birthday cards. Send them to: St. Matthew's Church, 490 Hall Ave, St. Paul, MN 55107, or email to AlumniNews@St-Matts.org.

REUNION SUNDAY — May 6, 10:30 a.m. Mass & Brunch

We will also be Recognizing St. Matt's Former Teachers that day. All Alums are invited with special recognition to those who graduated in a year ending in "7" or "2." Alums are welcome to join us for 10:30 a.m. Mass followed by a simple brunch in the social and a tour of the school. Please come and bring a classmate or sibling!

FR. STEVE'S RETIREMENT — SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday, June 23 — Mass and picnic at Cherokee Park at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 24 — Reception in the Social Hall from 2-5 p.m.