



THE GOOD NEWS

FROM ST. MATTHEW

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

“Unlocking Each Child’s Potential” Goal of New Intensive Tutoring Program

About 25% of students who enroll in urban Catholic schools come in with below grade level skills. The challenge for St. Matthew’s is to get these students the extra support they need so they can excel in high school and beyond. This school year, St. Matthew’s will offer a new program that helps do just that.

Starting in September, the East Side Learning Center will provide one-on-one tutoring in reading to St. Matthew’s students in grade 1-3. The program, which is run by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, will be at the school three days each week and will provide intensive tutoring to around 20 students. The Center’s mission is simple, to unlock each child’s potential through the foundation of reading.

As the name suggests, the East Side Learning Center (ESLC) got started on the East Side of St. Paul back in ‘98 when leaders of that community were trying to address a host of community problems including low student test scores. The School Sisters of Notre Dame were asked if they could help and after three years of researching options the sisters decided to launch a tutoring program. Sister Audrey Lindenfelser, SSND was invited by the sisters to begin it.

While the Sisters had a lot of teaching experience, the tutoring center was something different, as S. Audrey explains, “We had no road map of what this would look like. We did a pilot at John A. Johnson Elementary School. We tutored 19 children and had 20 volunteers. We saw gains so we expanded the program to Trinity Catholic School.”

Now ESLC serves 199 children in four public schools on the East Side in addition to Trinity. Each child is tutored one hour per day, 3-4 times per week. The program’s success is a result of careful planning tailored to each child. First, a new student in the program is evaluated, then an ESLC staff person writes an individual lesson plan for everyday the child is tutored. Tutors, who are usually trained volunteers, follow the lesson plan closely. After several weeks in the program, ESLC reevaluates the child to see

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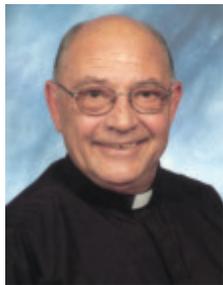
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Emily Kessel '01 wins prestigious Fulbright Scholarship – see page 8.

MESSAGE FROM **father steve**



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

Sisters sharing a meal at St. Matt's convent in a rare photo taken June, 1946. Prior to the 1960's Sisters were not supposed to be photographed.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SSND ARCHIVES.4



These pioneer women...provided education for tens of thousands of young people over the years at St. Matthew's School.

STEPHEN ADRIAN, PASTOR

Established in 1887, Saint Matthew's was known as a "School Sisters of Notre Dame School" for almost 120 years.

The Congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame was established in Bavaria in 1833. Europe was in crisis. The Napoleonic Wars left much of Europe devastated and poverty-stricken. Men were conscripted into the wars, leaving women and children to fend for themselves. Many soldiers never returned home, leaving families in an impossible situation.

Caroline Gerhardinger came of age in Bavaria during these turbulent times. She began teaching at age fifteen at the parish school in Stadtamhof. Under Father Michael Wittmann's spiritual guidance, Caroline gradually recognized God's call to found a religious community which would remedy the social situation through education.

The congregation traces its actual beginning to October 24, 1833, when Caroline Gerhardinger (who became Mother Theresa) and two other women began a common religious life in Neunburg vorm Wald, Bavaria.

Mother Theresa's first concern was for poor girls in small towns and villages. She sent sisters in two's and three's to reach people in rural areas. In doing so, she departed from the contemporary pattern of large, formal monasteries.

In 1847, only 14 years after the congregation was established, she set out for America to help the German people who had emigrated in hopes of building a new and better life for themselves and their children.

The sisters traveled more than 2000 miles by stagecoach and steamboat as far as the Mississippi River. After two years, Mother Theresa returned via the Great Lakes to Bavaria, leaving the American missions in the hands of twenty-three year old Sister Caroline Friess.

At the time of Mother Theresa's death in 1879, more than 2,500 School Sisters of Notre Dame were living religious life according to her spirit. They met the needs of their time by educating girls, principally in elementary schools but also in orphanages, day nurseries, and vocational schools. They trained future teachers and pioneered the development of kindergartens. For girls who were factory workers, they established homes and provided night schools where these girls could receive a basic education.

Among the early founders of the American parochial school system, Mother Caroline and the sisters established schools throughout the United States and Canada. In the tradition of meeting the needs of the people in a missionary country, they also began to teach boys.

Arriving in Mankato in September 1865, four School Sisters of Notre Dame opened SS. Peter and Paul parish school, the first Catholic school in southern Minnesota.

School Sisters of Notre Dame came to Saint Matthew's in 1887 — 54 years after the founding of the Congregation. These pioneer women religious — committed and strong, determined and effective — provided education for tens of thousands of young people over the years at Saint Matthew's School.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame are still a part of St. Matthew's community. Several Sisters live in apartments in the upper floors of the Parish Center and Sister Ann Becker serves on the school's Education Advisory Committee.

But with the coming of the East Side Learning Center, we will once again have women from the religious order that founded St. Matthew's School, back in the school, working with students. We welcome Sister Audrey and her fellow sisters into the same classrooms where so many of their predecessors taught before them. It's good to have them back.

Yours truly,
Stephen Adrian, Pastor

A Challenge from Wayne Dressler ('55)

Wayne Dressler has a message for his fellow alumni. "I just dropped off a check and a box of school supplies to St. Matt's. I'm on a fixed income and I can do it. So get off your (duff) and do it. We were all baptized, received First Communion, went through Confirmation — most of us were married there. The school needs a little cash, so write the check, get the tax deduction and you feel good."

Wayne was an iron worker for 45 years, saved his money and has a house in Birchwood. He says he does alright. But a bout with cancer a few years ago, helped him focus on what's important.

"Back in '06 I had a brain tumor. The doctor came out and told my daughter, it doesn't look good. Two months of radiation and I lost part of my eye sight, hearing, taste buds. But I'm great — I survived."

Wayne adds, "When you're laying there getting drilled, you think, 'What can I do to build myself up?' I haven't always been a perfect person. I grew up on the West Side. I'm still working on it." Wayne's been cancer free since '07.

Wayne's challenge? To join him in helping the school which he says, "We all loved at one time."

He also wants people to know there'll be a multi-year class reunion for graduates of '54, '55 and '56 at Joseph's Restaurant on September 10 from 4-8 p.m. For details about the reunion, contact George Schmid at g.schmid@comcast.net or 651-454-2410.

ONE MORE EAGLE SCOUT

In the last issue, we listed all the Scouts from St. Matthew's Troop 107 who had achieved the rank of Eagle Scout over the years. Shortly after publication, we heard from John Kuhns ('60), who wrote "I received my Eagle shortly after Tom Armstrong. He was my best friend and we earned many merit badges together. I vaguely

remember being on stage with Evan Simmons, but am not positive. I know when I received mine there was another scout on the stage." John is pictured here holding his Eagle Award and his merit badge sash.



Communion Dress Worn By Three Generations

When St. Matt's second grader, Allie Reding, received her First Communion this spring, she did it wearing a dress and veil that eight members of her family had worn before her. The dress was first worn in 1956 by Allie's grandmother, Sandy (Van Heel) Reding. It was then worn by Sandy's younger sister, Debra, Debra's daughter Olivia, Sandy's daughter Dawn, Dawn's daughter, Melissa, and Sandy's other two granddaughter Amanda and Allie.

How has the dress held up? Pretty good, they say. The only damage is an orange juice stain courtesy of Debra. In between First Communion's, the dress is stored at the home of the woman who purchased it, Allie's great grandmother, Mildred (Van Heel) Keeper. Mildred purchased the dress at J.C. Penney's in Signal Hills and when asked what it cost her 60 years ago, she recalls without hesitation, "I didn't pay more than \$2.98 for it." Looks like they got their money's worth.



Pictured above are those who wore the dress (back row left to right): Dawn (Reding) Karas ('84), Melissa Lopez ('06), Debra (Van Heel) Krey; Front row Amanda Reding, Allie Reding, Sandy (Van Heel) Reding. Not shown is Olivia Krey.

Pictured at right: Sandy (Van Heel) Reding in 1956.



East Side Learning Center, *cont. from page 1*



The East Side Learning Center tutors 199 children each week. Pictured is Sister Audrey Lindenfelser working with a student.

ESLC also tries to include parents by asking them to attend at least two of the tutoring sessions. S. Audrey says, “Just having the parent come is a big boost to the student. It reinforces how important this is. We also provide games and activities the parent and child can do together.”

It’s equally powerful for the parents to experience the academic success of their children, success many of them never knew themselves. S. Audrey recalls one parent’s response after watching their child read at a tutoring session, “I had a parent say to me, ‘I thought my son was memorizing the words, but he’s really reading.’” She tells of another parent who knew how to read but had no knowledge of phonics, which led the parent to ask the tutor during a session, “How do you know the sound of the letters?”

But in the end, no one is more excited about their success than the kids themselves. S. Audrey says, “We had another student that started with ESLC in 1st grade, who came in and said, ‘It’s no use, I don’t know how to read.’ The student struggled but hung in there. When he came back in 2nd grade he was all excited and said, ‘I was reading to my baby sister!’ HE was reading to HER.”

Continued on next page

how they are progressing, and if necessary, readjusts their lesson plans. S. Audrey says, “Everything is designed so that the child can really progress.”

And it works. In 2007, ESLC hired the Wilder Foundation to evaluate their program. The results confirmed dramatic improvements in the performance of students who participated in their program compared with those who did not.

Decision to come to St. Matthew’s

Four years ago, Fr. Steve Adrian asked S. Audrey if ESLC would consider coming to St. Matthew’s, but at that time, the organization’s focus was on the East Side. More recently, a few things have changed that. “Last year,” S. Audrey says, “our Board voted in a new strategic plan that expands services to other St. Paul schools.” Then in the spring, Trinity announced that it would be closing. “St. Matt’s was a natural fit when leaving Trinity.” For S. Audrey, it’ll be a return engagement. She taught 1st grade at St. Matt’s from 1969-74.

Doug Lieser, St. Matthew’s Principal, explains that students who currently are reading below grade level receive support through Title 1, but he thinks ESLC has the potential to really make a difference for some children. Doug says, “They will allow us to reach more kids. The service we get through Title 1 is good but it serves a limited number of students. There are some students who are too high for Title 1 but still need additional support. In the end (with ESLC) more kids will get individual attention.”

Tutors for East Side Learning Center

The East Side Learning Center is looking for volunteer tutors to work with students at St. Matthew’s in grades 1-3. The ESLC has a very successful volunteer program because it is highly structured and provides volunteers with the support they need to be successful.

We are looking for people who

- Like children
- Are reliable
- Want to share the fun of reading with others.

What You Can Expect

- At least 1 hour per week commitment
- Work 1 on 1 with the same child each week.
- Training before you start
- A lesson plan to follow each day.
- An ESLC staff available to help at all times.

For more information call 651-793-7331 or contact the school office at 651-224-6912.

East Side Learning Center, cont. from page 4

In addition to S. Audrey, who is the grant writer, head administrator and tutor, eight School Sisters of Notre Dame also work in the program, including S. Joanna Illg, S. Catheryn O'Donnell, S. Jane Thibault, S. Marge Buresh, S. Claudette Hudalla, S. Paulissa Jirik, S. Thomasin Sergot, and S. Donna Walerius. Several more serve on the board, which is now looking to expand to two new sites.

As S. Audrey prepares for September, one of her biggest tasks is to find volunteers willing to tutor for at least one hour per week. S. Audrey says, "We've had married couples in their 80's and college students volunteer. You just need to like children. We provide all the materials and training." (For more information about volunteering, see sidebar on page 4.)

St. Matthew's School aims to help all students achieve academic excellence, regardless of their skill level when they enroll. The East Side Learning Center provides another opportunity for St. Matthew's to make that goal a reality.

Heyli Howard ('09) Wins Four Year Scholarship

One of St. Matthew's 8th grade graduates has won a full, four year scholarship to St. Bernard's High School. Heyli Howard is one of 10 students awarded the scholarship which recognizes a wide range of accomplishments, including academic, extracurricular and service.



Heyli Howard ('09)

Doug Lieser, St. Matthew's principal, says the application process was rigorous, "They had to write essays, meet academic standards, get letters of recommendation, spend a day at St. Bernard's, and be interviewed." He's happy for Heyli but isn't too surprised. He explains, "She's an outstanding student. This year, she really grew as a leader. What's striking is how much her confidence has grown year after year.

She was Student Council President this year and three years ago, I couldn't imagine her running for Student Council President."

Jennifer Cassidy, President of St. Bernard's High

School, says the scholarship was established two years ago by a donor who was concerned about kids attending Catholic high schools who don't know if they can continue to afford tuition. The donor established the scholarships in the belief that children shouldn't have to worry about that.



Kathy Jackson, St. Bernard's High School, awards Heyli her scholarship.

Jennifer says that to honor the donor's investment, they wanted to make it a well rounded application process that revealed the full scope of a student's potential, in addition to financial need. When talking about Heyli and her fellow scholarship recipients, Jennifer says, "The thing that impresses me is their success in school, their extracurricular activities but also their commitment to service. I'm amazed that in 8th grade, these kids are invested in all these different areas and are doing it well. You wonder, what will they be able to do in four more years?" She adds, "St. Bernard's is a great place to be able to get better at all those things."

Heyli's mom, Tila Perez, was thrilled to hear the news. She says, "I am so proud of her. She works so hard. On weekends, she limits her time with her friends so she can get her homework done. She's a good kid."

When Heyli heard that she'd won the scholarship, she says, "I was really excited. I couldn't believe it." As for her plans this summer, Heyli is volunteering with All Around the Neighborhood where she'll be leading younger children in activities that will take place in locations all over the West Side.

Every year several St. Matt's graduates choose St. Bernard's, which will be the only Catholic high school in the state to offer the two year International Baccalaureate Diploma. The IB Diploma is recognized by the world's leading universities as a mark of excellence. Jennifer Cassidy notes that students from St. Matthew's come well prepared, with a strong sense of faith and reflect the Benedictine values of respect, service and hospitality.

We wish Heyli well in high school and look forward to hearing about her future accomplishments.



- 1 - Class of 1964 — 45th Anniversary
- 2 - Oldest alumnae at Reunion Sunday:
Clara (Koza) Kolles '28, Virginia (Martbolter)
Russell '29.
- 3 - Class of 1959 — 50th Anniversary
- 4 - Former St. Matthew's Teachers (front row
left-right): Sr. Audrey Lindenfelser,
Sr. Catherine O'Donnell, Sr. Ann Becker;
(back row left-right): Sr. Therese Even,
Sr. Germaine Mulcahy.
- 5 - Alumni graduating from 1928-1945.



Reunion Sunday

HELD ON MAY 3, 2009



Bandholz Sisters at Reunion Sunday

The Bandholz sisters had their own mini-reunion the night before St. Matthew's Reunion Sunday. Suzie (Bandholz) Leavitt '54, Patty (Bandholz) Standing '59 and Margie (Bandholz) Boyd '64 all spent the night together in the home they grew up in on George Street, where their mother, Florence (Eschenbach) Bandholz '34, still lives. The sisters say they hadn't all been together like that in their own home since they were teenagers.

So, what was it like? "Mom treated us like we were two years old!" The sisters all laughed. Suzie says, "She came into the rooms, pulled the shades and pulled down the covers and she said, 'you get in and brush your teeth.' Then she went after Patty."

Their mother, Florence, agrees that's pretty much how it went. "I enjoy family. It's nice we're all together."

The daughters think so too. "Mom keeps us plugged in," one of them says. "We call her and she lets us know what's going on with everyone else."

Pictured above are (left to right): Florence (Eschenbach) Bandholz '34, Margie (Bandholz) Boyd '64, Suzie (Bandholz) Leavitt '54, and Patty (Bandholz) Standing '59.

Emily Kessel ('01) Wins Fulbright Scholarship to Korea

St. Matthew's alumna, **Emily Kessel ('01)**, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to spend one year teaching English to students in South Korea. The

Fulbright Scholarship is a prestigious award that aims to increase mutual understanding between people of the United States and other countries through the exchange of people, knowledge and skills.

This spring, Emily graduated Magna Cum Laud from the University of St. Thomas with majors in Communication Studies, a Studio Arts minor and

an Individual Minor in Asian Studies.

Emily, who was born in South Korea, was adopted by Georgia and Dave Kessel when she was four months old. She grew up on the West Side and attended public school until her mother transferred her to St. Matthew's at the start of 6th grade. Her mother, who is Catholic, had joined St. Matthew's a few years earlier and wanted religion to be a part of Emily's education. Her mother thought middle school would be a good time to make the switch.

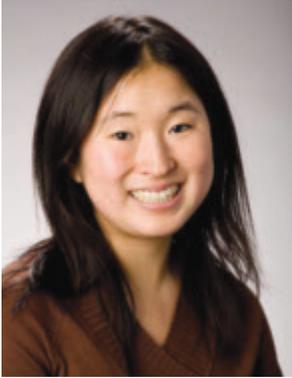
Emily recalls that it was a tough transition. She notes that everything was different at St. Matt's — the small classes, wearing a uniform, learning about Catholicism. And while she acknowledges St. Matthew's diversity, there weren't many other Asian students. "It was hardest to lose my Asian friends," she says. But in 8th grade, she said it all turned for her. She was a good student, but shy by nature and that year, she started to come out.

Emily says, "Going to St. Matt's, I was forced to do something I didn't want to do. And that ended up being a good thing." She thinks all the changes she dealt with resulted in a lot of personal growth which led her out of her shell.

The experience of Catholic school also enriched her spiritual life. She explains, "I really liked the church. I still keep in touch. Fr. Steve's passion inspired me. He challenged us to act on our faith. I admired that."

After graduating from St. Matthew's, she attended Cretin-Derham Hall and then went on to the University of St. Thomas.

In June, '06, Emily and her mother went to South Korea as part of a trip sponsored by The Children's Home Society, the agency the Kessel's worked with to adopt Emily. The trip was an opportunity for Korean



adoptees to reconnect with their native country and possibly learn about their birth families. It was a great experience for Emily and when she returned, she began learning Korean and making plans to go back.

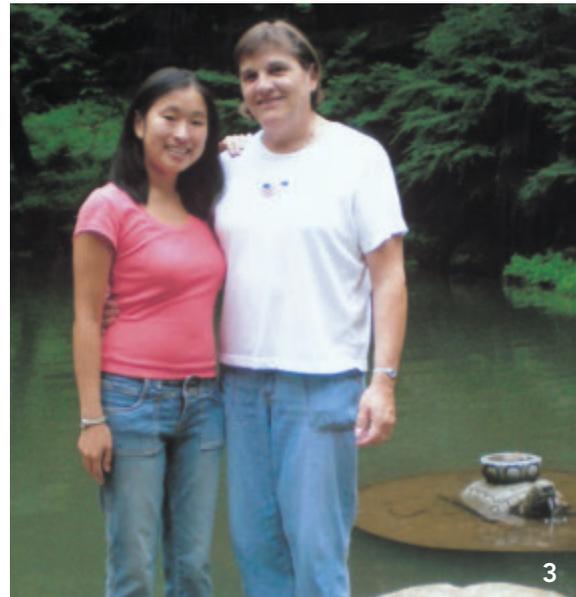
St. Thomas didn't have a study abroad program so Emily created her own. She applied for some scholarships and organized another trip back to Asia in January '08. This trip lasted five months during which she attended Yonsei University in Seoul, and spent a few months traveling on her own to other Asian countries. When recalling that trip, her mom says, "It was a little scary for us because she was all by herself, but she did it. She's a real go-getter."

That experience led her to apply for a Fulbright Scholarship which will fund a full year in Korea. She'll be

an English teaching assistant to either middle school or high school age students, but she doesn't yet know where in the country she'll be going. She leaves for Korea in early July and will spend one month in orientation before she gets her assignment.

After Korea, she thinks she'll be headed to graduate school. She says, "If I won the lottery, I'd keep taking classes."

Her advice to St. Matt's graduates headed to high school reflects her own experience at St. Matthew's. "Make things different," she says, "Challenge yourself. Try as many things as you can and keep as many doors open as possible. And don't be afraid to embarrass yourself. It may be how you find the thing you were meant to do."



1 – Opposite page: One of the many beautiful temples in Korea.

2 – Emily (right) with friend after bungee jumping.

3 – Emily and her mother, Georgia, on their hike to the Haeinsa Temple.

4 – Emily and Georgia visit with their host family in Korea.



Graduates Awarded Scholarships

Six St. Matthew's 8th grade graduates were awarded \$500 scholarships each to go towards their high school tuition. Five of the graduates will be attending Cretin-Derham Hall High School and one will be attending St. Croix Lutheran.

The purpose of the scholarships is to help make high school tuition affordable for St. Matthew's families, and to recognize students for leadership, character, community involvement, and academic achievement. The students had to submit applications that were reviewed by middle school teachers and select members of the Alumni & Friends Committee. Committee member, Tom McKeown, handed out the awards at their graduation ceremony.

Lynn Volkenant, Principal at School in Wayzata

After nine years at St. Matthew's School, Lynn Volkenant has accepted the position of principal at St. Bartholomew's in Wayzata. Lynn taught 5th grade for seven years and for the past two has taught middle school while also serving as the Assistant Principal. In 2008, she received her EdS degree from the University of St. Thomas, through the Murray Institute program and a K-12 administrators license from the state of Minnesota.

While she's looking forward to the new challenge, she acknowledges that it's hard to leave St. Matthew's, "I'm going to miss everything about this place." She cites the wonderful diversity of the students and makes special mention of her colleagues. "The teachers here are extraordinary in their dedication to the children," she says.

Even though Lynn won't be teaching at the school, she'll still live on the West Side and will continue to be a member of St. Matthew's parish. So the next time you see Lynn at church, be sure to wish her well.

Congratulations, Lynn, we're going to miss you, too.



Twenty students graduated from St. Matt's this year

Of the 20 students that graduated from St. Matthew's this year, 14 will attend Catholic high schools, two will attend a Lutheran high school and four will attend public high school.

Guest Editorial

“Recession” An Opportunity for Altruism

A great many have lost their jobs and some their homes. Others are working fewer hours or have taken a cut in salary and benefits. Most retirement savings and investments have also declined in value.

As a consequence weekend collections here at St. Matthew’s are running substantially less than budget. Ramsey County funds for child care have dried up. And a significant number of families with children in our school are behind in their tuition payments.

The good news is that the majority of us still have more than we really need. When others hurt we are frequently touched at the heart level and offer our assistance. We refer to this as being *altruistic*. Jesus called it the commandment of *Loving your neighbor as yourself*.

You and I are the beneficiaries of many who have gone before — our parents, grandparents, teachers (like the School Sisters of Notre Dame and Christian

Brothers), mentors, community leaders, volunteers, etc. Many altruistic people contributed greatly to the quality of life we enjoy today. A sound Catholic education was a strong foundation to our financial success. It is now our turn to give back for the benefit of new generations.

St. Matthew’s School is anticipating another increase in enrollment. Alumni & Friends has set a goal of \$150,000 for tuition assistance by September 30. We need your help to reach that amount. Failing to provide a quality educational opportunity for the next generation would be akin to a farmer who eats his seed corn. Please consider making a significant contribution to benefit the students of St. Matthew’s before September 30.

— Jerry Sexton ‘44

Alumni & Friends
Reach 75%
of Goal

Amount Raised:
\$112,000

Goal:
\$150,000

Fall Festival is coming September 19-20

Fall Festival is coming and this year’s committee will have something for all ages. There will be taco’s on Saturday night and a sit down dinner on Sunday plus games for adults and kids, prizes to win, chances to take, raffle tickets to sell. We would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in joining a committee to help with planning or lend a hand during the festival.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

- Start collecting bottle lotto items.
- Collect those baskets you have around the house and use your imagination to create an interesting package to be sold in the basket booth.
- Dig out an antique treasure to donate to the auction or, if you’re handy, make something yourself.
- Get suggestions from your kids for items they’d enjoy picking up at the fish pond or cherry tree.
- Ask a business owner you know if they’d be willing to donate an item.
- You can bring your items to the parish center on weekdays or to the church on weekends.

**WE WOULD LOVE
TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

**For more information call
Joan Lannon at 651-221-9106.**



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Pastor: Fr. Steve Adrian

Parish Office: 651-224-9793

Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.

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

www.st-matts.org

EVENTS calendar

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – July 20-24

St. Matthew's parish members are invited to help build a house in Chaska. Carpools are available and no experience is needed. We are looking for on-site volunteers, food servers, nurses and site hosts. For those who can't come, donations of food or beverages are also welcome. To find out more, contact: Ginny Roethler 651-222-2867.

PARISH CENTER PAINTING PROJECT – July 30 to August 2

We're looking for volunteers to prep/paint the top floor (Notre Dame formation community.) For more information, contact the parish office at 651-224-9793.

MEN'S CLUB MONTHLY MEETING – August 12 at 8 p.m. in the Social Hall

Come and find out more about one of the most active groups at St. Matt's. They do a lot for the parish and school but have fun while they're at it. In August they'll be sponsoring a Saints game outing. The date will be announced in the bulletin or you can send your email address to timothy.nowak@usfamily.net.

FEAST OF ASSUMPTION MASS AND PICNIC IN CHEROKEE PARK – August 14 at 6:15 p.m.

Since the Feast of Assumption falls on a Saturday, this year we'll hold our annual celebration on Friday. Hot dogs & hamburgers will be provided by the Men's Club. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy the evening. In case of rain, mass will be at church.

LABOR DAY MASS – September 7 at 9:00 a.m.

CLASS REUNION FOR '54, '55 & '56 – September 10, 4-8 p.m at Joseph's Grill

This is a well organized group who puts on a great party. For more information, George Schmid: g.schmid@comcast.net or 651-454-2410.

FALL FESTIVAL – September 19-20

Plans are in the works for this year's Festival and like always, they'll include good food, fellowship and fun. If you'd like to lend a hand or make a contribution to the many auctions and sales, call Joan Lannon 651-221-9106 (see pg. 11 for details.)