



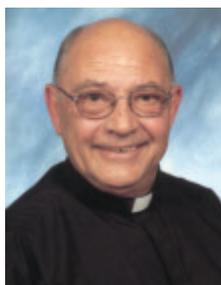
THE GOOD NEWS

FROM ST. MATTHEW

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

Worship of God and Service of Neighbor

By Fr. Stephen Adrian



"Vatican II was a watershed in the church's self-image and attitude toward the world. Unlike a sect that maintains a distance (and thus its purity) from the established centers of culture, commerce, industry and politics, the Catholic Church envisioned by Vatican II is to be at the center of human enterprise, in all of its glory and its frailty..." — RUSSELL BARTA, THE VISION OF VATICAN II

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

St. Matthew's was founded as a German National parish and stayed that way throughout the first half of the 20th century. It emerged during the second half of the 20th century as a strong, urban, Catholic community engaged in the worship of God and the service of neighbor.

Over the past fifty years, beginning with the leadership of committed parish members and energetic pastors — Msgr. Cecka, Fathers Bill Whittier and Gene Pascholl — our parish community set itself on the road to implementing the letter and spirit of the Vatican II Council.

For all of that time, parish lay leadership has been the back bone of this mission to be "a visible expression of God's love in the world."

In 1978, I was privileged and honored to be asked to serve as parish priest and pastor of this community. Over the years the parish engagement with the West Side community has grown.

Since its inception, children have been at the center of St. Matthew's mission, beginning with the School. Today, St. Matthew's is a community school in which parish and non-parish children and families find an educational opportunity which prepares our students to succeed in high school and higher education. The majority of our students are children of color and the majority of families are not members of Saint Matthew's Church. The same can be said for our Child Care center and our before and after school program — KLT.

Continued on page 8

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Loaves & Fishes
- 3 St. Mary's Health Clinic
- 4 Casa Guadalupana
- 5 Ministries to Children
- 6 Student Service Projects
- 9 School News
- 10 Jack & Carol Heitzinger Memories



For 10 years, St. Matthew's third grade students have visited seniors at the Care Center on Humboldt Avenue every week during the school year. See photos on pages 6-7.

St. Matthew's Parish partners with...
LOAVES & FISHES

Dinner and Good Company 4 Days A Week

Every Monday thru Thursday, from 5:00-6:00 p.m., Loaves & Fishes provides dinner and good company to anyone who wants it, free of charge, in St. Matthew's Social Hall. Depending on the time of year (more people come in warm weather) anywhere from 125-190 people gather together for dinner each night. The majority of diners are single parent families and elders. Dawn Haas, the program coordinator, estimates that all their guests live within a mile or two of St. Matthew's.

Many of the regulars are seniors who live in the Wilder apartments across the street. Around 25% of the diners are kids, who sometimes come without an adult. Dawn, says "I've seen children as young as two years old show up with older siblings to eat dinner. When school is out, this may be the only meal they get that day." This year, Dawn's noticed a new group, two parent families. "We didn't see much of that before."

But she has seen the numbers go up. There was a 10% increase in diners from 2007-08. And she can tell the numbers are up again this year, she estimates by 15%.

One of the regulars is Gaynell, a gregarious woman from the Wilder apartments who says, "My money doesn't stretch the whole month. I come to eat three times per week, sometimes four. It helps." But Gaynell can't stay to talk because she's also the Candy Lady. Every night she brings a bag stuffed with suckers and cellophane-wrapped Smarties to hand out to each child that comes for dinner. "We used to give out gum" her friend Bill says on the side, "but they kept having to scrape it off the floor. So they asked us to stop."

Over 20 different churches and faith groups volunteer to make and serve dinner each night. Tonight's team is from Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran

Church in Afton. Lisa, one of the volunteers, hands out a tray heaping with tacos and beans and says "We see such good manners from the families that come in. People are so thankful." And she knows the service is crucial, "People may be faced with a decision — do I pay for prescriptions or groceries?"

For more information about the Loaves & Fishes ministry contact Dawn Haas at 651-292-0614.



ABOVE A volunteer serves up food from St. Matthew's kitchen for Loaves & Fishes.



RIGHT Around 25% of diners are children.

Volunteer Teams that Serve at Loaves & Fishes at St. Matthew's

Salem Covenant
St. Matthew's Catholic
Augustana, Shepherd
of the Valley
Nativity of the Lord
St. Paul United Methodist
Mennonite Fellowship

West St. Paul Rotary
St. Stephen's Lutheran
Our Lady of Guadalupe
St. Stanislaus's Lutheran
Woodbury Baptist
Bethel Lutheran
St. Joseph's Catholic

King of Kings
St. Rose of Lima Catholic
St. Mark's Catholic
St. Thomas More Catholic
St. Timothy Lutheran
Christ Episcopal
Salem Lutheran

The Harbor
Students with
No Boundaries
Christ Lutheran
Pax Christi Catholic

St. Matthew's Parish partners with...
ST. MARY'S HEALTH CLINIC

Health Services on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon, a doctor, two nurses, two translators and a few support staff, set up shop in St. Matthew's Parish Center. Since 1992, St. Matthew's has been one of nine sites throughout the metro area for St. Mary's Health Clinic. The Clinic provides free primary health services to a growing number of families that fall between the widening cracks of the health care system. Clinic patients at St. Matthew's are typically working people from the West Side with jobs that don't provide insurance. And while they can't afford to buy insurance on their own, they earn too much for government programs like MinnesotaCare or Medicare.

The Clinic provides nonemergency health care services including preventive care and the treatment of common health problems. About 20% of their patients are children. They also treat chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma and hypertension. Just as important, the Clinic helps people navigate the system to get the care they need. If a patient needs to see a specialist, they'll find one at no charge. If the Clinic determines someone needs surgery, who isn't covered by a Minnesota Health care program, the Clinic will arrange for free hospitalization. The clinic provides free diagnostic tests and free medications.

How do they do it? The Sisters of St. Joseph, who run the Clinic, have deep roots in the health care community here. They work with a stable of doctors who donate their services and have partnered with several hospitals who discount their fees to the Clinic. The hospitals also know that without the Clinic, these patients could wind up in their emergency rooms which would cost them much more. The Sisters of St. Joseph also have a foundation that writes grants to cover operating, medical and prescription expenses.

Diane Peters, who's managed the Clinic since it opened, says, "The need is going to keep growing until something happens with health care. We'll add some additional days but we're at capacity right now. With the economy in decline, more children and adults will need services."

For more information about St. Mary's Health Clinic call 651-690-7020.

“The need is going to keep growing... With the economy in decline, more children and adults will need services.”

DIANE PETERS, ST. MARY'S HEALTH CLINIC MANAGER



Doctor's and nurses volunteer their time at the clinic.



The meeting room at St. Matthew's Parish Center is turned into a doctor's office during clinic hours.

St. Matthew's Parish partners with...
CASA GUADALUPANA



ABOVE Former Casa resident, Enedina, volunteers to care for current resident Maria's, new baby.

LEFT Fr. Steve Adrian blesses Casa's new residence at St. Matthew's old rectory.

Help for Families in Crisis

Casa Guadalupana is a Catholic Worker house that helps Latina immigrants, usually single moms with kids, who may be experiencing a crisis or just can't meet their basic needs. They are people whose living situations are so tenuous, that they can rapidly slide into catastrophe. These are also families who are ineligible for assistance and have no family or support system to fall back on.

Last September, Casa moved from a small home on the West Side into St. Matthew's old rectory, a much larger space across the street from the church. Once renovations are complete on the hundred year old house, they'll have room to stretch out and help more people.

The best way to understand some of what Casa does is to meet a few families who've stayed there, like Enedina's, a single mom with two kids. Enedina had surgery for breast cancer and was undergoing radiation treatment but as the sole support for her children, she couldn't afford to take time off work to recover. Her doctor explained that working with industrial cleaners while undergoing radiation could damage her already fragile health. But, if she didn't work, her children would be homeless. The doctor called Casa and they took her family in while she recovered from cancer. At Casa she received free room and board so she could leave her job. Casa volunteers

took her to medical appointments and arranged for her to study English so she could get a better job after she left.

"Maria," another single parent, was expecting her fourth child when her house was destroyed in a fire that burned over 75% of her body. The hospital delivered the baby while she was in a coma but once released, she had no home and no family to turn to. She had four children under the age of five to care for while she tried to recover from her burns. Casa took them in, cared for her children, took her to doctors' appointments and saw them through until she was well enough to work again.

Casa not only sees families through the crisis, but helps them develop skills and supports to meet future challenges. Since 2004, over 50 people have lived at Casa, at least half have been children, and none of them has been homeless since.

For more information contact Kim Anderson at 651-222-7668.

HELP CASA RENOVATE THE RECTORY

Casa is looking for volunteer groups or organizations willing to adopt one room for renovation at the rectory. While many rooms have already been refurbished, others still need to be fixed up and furnished to be ready for use. To find out more, call 651-222-7668.

St. Matthew's Parish provides...
MINISTRIES TO CHILDREN

School, Childcare & KLT

The majority of St. Matthew's Parish resources go towards ministries that serve children including the school, the Childcare Center and KLT, the before and after school program for children. Doug Lieser, who serves as the principal of the school and oversees all the services for children, believes St. Matthew's stands out from many other parishes in its commitment to serving the community. "I think St. Matt's does a good job of mission. It all goes back to what Jesus says — take care of the most vulnerable."

Childcare and KLT

In that spirit, St. Matthew's operates the only Childcare Center serving infants to preschoolers, on the West Side. The goal of the Center is to provide high quality care to families who don't have access to it anywhere else.

KLT is also distinct. While most schools only offer after-school care to their own students, St. Matthew's makes KLT available to all children. Doug says, "There are a lot of kids in our neighborhood who need something to do before and after school." At KLT they're safe, supervised, get healthy food, help with homework and time with friends.

Ministries impact school

Doug also sees connections between each of the outreach ministries on St. Matthew's campus and the school. He says, "There are definitely families who have their kids in school who also come to Loaves & Fishes and the Health Clinic. We have one family who came to



St. Matthew's students on the playground equipment during recess.

There are definitely families who have their kids in school who also come to Loaves & Fishes and the health clinic.

DOUG LIESER, PRINCIPAL, ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL

us when they were staying at Casa and now their kids have been going to St. Matt's for almost 2 years. Kids from Casa have also been welcomed into the Childcare Center and KLT."

Doug believes that having all of these ministries right here on St. Matthew's campus creates a culture about caring for others. A culture that's reinforced by the service projects each student takes part in every year. "This is part of what we're called to do — follow the parish's mission. We can make a difference in people's lives."

For more information about the Childcare Center or KLT call 651-224-6912.

YOU CAN READ THE GOOD NEWS 6 TIMES PER YEAR (AND IT'S FREE!)

If you are not on our regular mailing list but would like to receive THE GOOD NEWS please send us your name and address on the enclosed envelope or e-mail your name and address to: AlumniNews@St-Matts.org





Don't Teach Service – Have Kids Do It!

St. Matthew's Middle School students recently volunteered at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC), a non-profit organization in Eagan. Four 8th graders got together to talk about the experience. Pictured above are Daniel Goldenstein, Reynaldo Hernandez, Heyli Howard and Leticia Roquemore. Here's some of what they had to say.

When we first get there, they explain what we're doing. They explain the food we're packing, where they deliver it. Then we go pack the food.

At the beginning, they showed a picture of a kid who was eight years old and weighed just 17 lbs. Then they showed him after six months and he weighed 72 lbs. He was from El Salvador.

At the end we prayed over the food. It was your choice to pray. It was an opportunity to reflect on what we were doing.

Me and my friends are thinking of getting our families together and going back there. I talked to my family and they said they would want to do that.

The same week we were at FMSC, we brought in food for the Souper Bowl (a food drive for local food shelves.) FMSC helps people around the world and the Souper Bowl helps people in this community. Everyone thinks that if you live in the U.S., you can feed yourselves, but it's not true for everybody.

I think the school wants to show us that we can make a difference in our community.

The bible talks about the poor. Yesterday's passage, it said if you're mean to the poor, you're mean to God. When you help the poor, it's a way of praising God.

In high school, I want to get more involved in service projects. It was a good experience.

Where 3rd Graders and Seniors

For the past ten years, 3rd grade teacher, Joyce Marxer has brought her students for weekly visits to Cerenity Care Center (formerly Wilder Nursing Home) across from the school on Humboldt Avenue. For one hour each week, the students play games, sing songs and make art with the elders. The service project has become a tradition at the school that older students talk about fondly (including the 8th graders interviewed for this issue) and younger students look forward to.

After teaching at St. Matthew's for over 30 years, Joyce Marxer retired in February for health reasons. But the service project she started, with the intention of enriching the lives of both elders and students, will continue.



Elders Enrich One Another



Letter from a 3rd grade student...

"I like going to Wilder because we get to play a lot of fun games. I have two favorite Elders — Mary and Sylvia. They're both fun. Mary smiles whenever I make something for her. She has the coolest room number. It's 2-4-6! Sylvia is fun too! She can't do as much. She's still fun though. I just like knowing that I put smiles on their faces! — EMILY

Worship of God and Service of Neighbor, cont. from page 1

To Live with Dignity and Grace

The West Side has always been an immigrant community — a community on the banks of the Mississippi River; and Saint Matthew’s seeks to welcome the “new comer” with open arms.

New immigrants often need opportunities to establish themselves. Saint Matthew’s members were instrumental in the establishment of our local housing and commercial development corporation — The Neighborhood Development Alliance (NeDA). The challenge is to make sure that the work done in brick and mortar sustains people — body and soul — and that development embraces all that is needed for people to live with dignity and grace.

Whenever possible, St. Matthew’s has welcomed partnerships on our campus that enrich our parish life and advance our mission to serve the community.

The hundreds of people — children, men and women — who come to Saint Matthew’s each week for their evening meal through Loaves & Fishes, seek to satisfy their hungers — hunger for food, hunger for companionship, hunger for neighborhood connections, hunger of body and soul.

Since 1992, St. Matthew’s has provided a place for people to get their most basic health care needs met free of charge. Our partnership with St. Mary’s Health Clinic has meant that low income families in our community, who didn’t have health insurance, nevertheless had a place to bring their children when they were sick and get medicine for them at no cost.

Our latest partnership is with Casa Guadalupana. The 125 year old priests’ house on the corner of Hall and Robie is no longer a residence for clergy; it is a Catholic Worker House. In the spirit and example of Dorothy Day, Casa welcomes immigrant families who are in crisis or temporarily unable to meet their most basic needs.

Challenged by the Word of God

At the very heart of this engagement with the world is the conviction that all begins and ends at the altar of the Lord. The Eucharist is at the heart of the parish community mission.

“For the work of the Eucharist is not found within the walls of churches, but in the streets and alleys of the city.”

FR. STEPHEN ADRIAN



Children during their stay at Casa Guadalupana.

Day by day and week by week we sit and open our hearts and minds to the challenge of the Word of God, a Word which comforts and confronts. We then gather at the altar of the Lord, the Word made Flesh, and celebrate the mystery by which the Spirit of Jesus renews the face of the earth. We, as it were, stand on tip toes and see for a few minutes a new heaven and a new earth. Then we are sent forth. For the work of the Eucharist is not found within the walls of churches, but in the streets and alleys of the city. “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” Gregory Pierce says “if you get the dismissal rite right, you get the Eucharist right.”

Well, that’s why we are who we are; and why we do what we do.

If you are looking for a community that gets the dismissal rite right, come and join us. You are always welcome. No one is ever turned away.



PHOTO BY TERRY BEBERTZ

Youth in Government Field Trip

By Aliya Rivera, St. Matthew's 8th grade student

Every year, St. Matthew's 8th grade students participate in a four-day field trip with students from around the state. The students work together to form a mock government where they get hands-on experience learning how government functions including drafting bills, passing laws and lobbying their fellow delegates. In the following essay, 8th grader Aliya Rivera shares her views on the experience.

Youth In Government was one of the best experiences I have ever had. I learned so much. Before I went, I didn't know very much about trials or government procedures. The knowledge I gained will help me in high school and as an American citizen. We learned proper phrases for working in the Legislature and Judicial systems.

The first day we toured the Capitol. I had never been there before, so when I stepped inside for the first time, my mouth dropped! Our tour guide was just great. I never knew that our Capitol was built three times.

The second day we learned how to write a bill. If we wanted to, we could debate each bill. We also learned how we could make an amendment on the bill. An amendment is basically fixing up the bill if you don't feel its 100%. Once a bill was debated, then each of us voted by saying nay (no), or aye (yes).

During the Youth and Government field trip, we made other friendships with people from all across Minnesota. I met wonderful new friends that I am still in contact with.

I think I speak for my class when I say Youth in Government was an adventure everyday!



**Aliya Rivera,
8th grade student.**



Playing Chess at St. Matthew's

St. Matthew's Chess Club sponsored an event on February 3rd after 10:30 a.m. mass. As part of the Coffee Hour, parishioners were invited to play chess with members of the Chess Club or their friends and family. Everyone was also invited to take part in a simultaneous match against Mr. Diaz, the Chess Club instructor who has achieved the International Chess Federation's rank of Chess Master. Mr. Diaz played 15 games at once. If you'd like to find out more about the Chess Club or may be interested in volunteering, contact the school office at 651-224-6912.



Heitzingers at St. Matthew's for Five Generations

Jack and Carol Heitzinger don't remember exactly when they met but it was probably in 1932 when they were in 2nd grade together at St. Matthew's School. Carol's father had died a few years earlier and her mother had moved the family to the West Side to live with an uncle who owned the Gopher Overall factory.

Jack's family roots run a little deeper in the parish. His grandparents were married at St. Matthew's in 1889, possibly in the newly built church, although Jack doesn't know for sure. And both of Jack's parents attended St. Matthew's School where all the lessons were taught in German at the time. Jack's parents met while singing in St. Matthew's Church Choir and they both played on St. Matthew's Bowling Team.

Remembering old times

Jack recalls, "The bowling alley, that was a noisy place. Those guys would drink beer down there, then, they'd go up to Curley's Tavern. Curley wasn't Catholic but that was the local watering hole."

Back in the '30's, when they were going to school, church was a little different, too. Carol describes the white cloth that would be placed over the altar railing before communion. "You had to fold your hands underneath the cloth."

Jack remembers Fr. Ziskovsky, "He had a strange habit. After communion, when he had finished cleaning and drying the chalice, he would slam it down — BANG! You could hear it all over the West Side. And he had an expression he liked to use. You were always in 'the springtime of life.' Didn't matter how old you were."

They both remembered the Legion of Decency pledge they had to repeat every Sunday in church. "It was something like, 'I will not read improper books, I will not see improper movies...'" Everyone stood in church to recite it." Jack says, "I remember one guy — everybody was standing up and he just sat there. He wouldn't say it."

About confession, Jack says, "At St. Matt's, you had to go every two weeks. You always asked the person ahead of you in line, 'what are you gonna say?' You didn't want to say the same thing. And you always told the person behind you."

Carol recalls one confession with Fr. Clemens. "I was in the booth when he said to me, 'Carol, it's hot. Please open the window.' And I thought, 'Oh, no! He knows my name!'" Jack laughs, "Your cover was blown!" Carol adds, "I was so upset at the time — like it really mattered."

Starting their own family

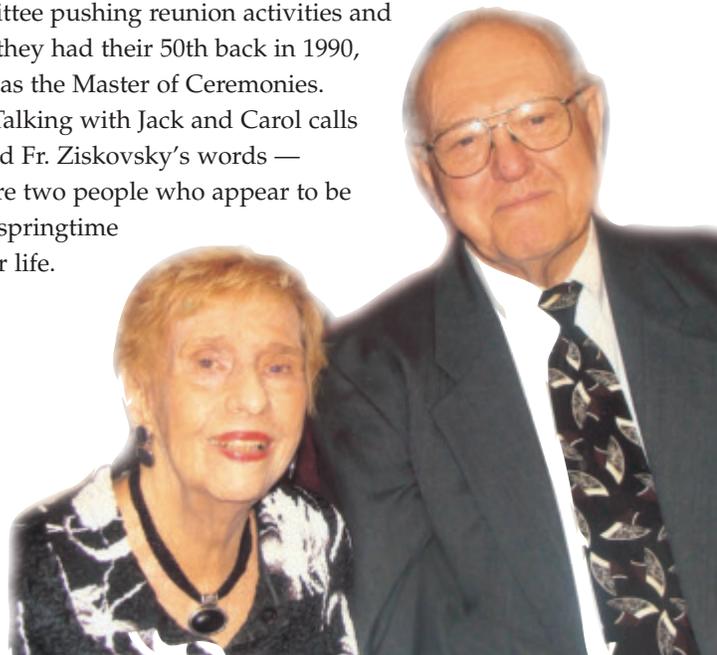
Jack and Carol got married on Sept. 18, 1948. After Jack's mother died, they moved into the home Jack's father built on Delaware near Cherokee Park. Jack's father moved into a room above the garage and Jack and Carol raised their eight children in the four bedroom home.

By that time, St. Joseph's School had opened and they joined that parish which was a lot closer. But when Carol's uncle died, their son John and his wife Diane moved into his old house and eventually sent their own two boys to St. Matthew's School. Both boys became Eagle Scouts.

Jack and Carol live in Roseville now but their connections to the school are still strong. Every month Carol gets together for lunch with four friends from grade school and says, "It's just a miracle that we're all still alive."

They both always serve on the committee pushing reunion activities and when they had their 50th back in 1990, Jack was the Master of Ceremonies.

Talking with Jack and Carol calls to mind Fr. Ziskovsky's words — they are two people who appear to be in the springtime of their life.



Carol and Jack Heitzinger

From the Editor

Where a Contribution Makes a Real Difference

I sat down with Fr. Steve recently to prepare for this edition of the newsletter. While we were talking, he shared a few stories, just as little asides. When discussing Loaves & Fishes, he told me about a 90-year old woman he'd visited some time ago and how she'd presented him with a check for \$10,000 to support the program. She was not, he said, a woman of means. But she explained to him that when she died and faced God, she wanted to be confident that she'd done what she could to feed His hungry people.

When the Childcare Center came up, he shared his concern about a call he'd received a few days earlier. It was about a mother, who in an effort to escape an abusive relationship, had disappeared with her three-year-old child who was enrolled at the Center. He noted that up till then, for 12 hours a day, that child had

received the benefit of a safe, nurturing environment and he hoped the child and mother could return soon.

Lastly, he told me about a relatively wealthy man who'd joined St. Matthew's Parish a few years ago and gave generously each week. At the time, the man had said to Fr. Steve that his former church would not miss his contribution and that he wanted to give his money to a place where it would make a difference.

There are a lot of children who need a safe, nurturing place to go for at least part of the day. There are a growing number of people who need a hot meal and a little conversation. And there are also many people who want to help provide these things. There is no doubt about it — when you give to St. Matthew's, you're giving to a place where it makes a real difference.

— Maggie Lee, Editor



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Reunion Sunday, May 3

We currently have alumni from graduating classes of 1929 to 1969 with lots more in between. So join us that day - all alumni are welcome with special recognition to those who graduated in a year ending in a '4' or a '9.' Alumni are invited to attend 10:30 a.m. Mass which will be followed by a simple brunch in the Social Hall and a tour of the school. For more information or to RSVP call 651-224-6912 (school office) or email: AlumniNews@st-matts.org



New and Convenient Way to Give On-line

Making a donation to Alumni & Friends is now just a "click" away. Safe and secure donations may now be made on-line using PayPal, which also accepts credit cards. To find out more or to make a contribution, go to St. Matthew's Parish website: www.st-matts.org



Use Your Target Card and Raise Money for St. Matthew's School

St. Matthew's will receive a percentage of each purchase you make using your Target Visa or Target Card. Just visit target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 and designate our school (ID number 9136.) After that, whenever you use your Target card, Target's *Take Charge of Education* program will donate a percentage of your purchase to the school and it will cost you nothing. Anyone who has a Target Card can participate so sign up today.



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Published Bi-monthly by Alumni &
Friends of St. Matthew's.

Editor: Maggie Lee

E-mail: AlumniNews@St-Matts.org

Phone: 651-224-6912 x47

*All expenses associated with
editorial, design, printing & mailing
are donated.*

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St. Paul, MN 55107

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

LENTEN FISH FRY — March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3

Regular serving time is from 5-7:30 p.m. with a Senior Citizen Special from 4:00-5:00 p.m. The Fish Fries are co-sponsored by the Rosary Society, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Home & School. A portion of our profits to the Street Children of Bucharest.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT AT SCHOOL – Monday March 16 & Thursday April 16 at 6:30 p.m.

For parents with children not currently enrolled at St. Matthew's School who would like to learn more about our school and its academic goals, religious education and tuition assistance. For more information call the office at 651-224-6912. Tell your friends and neighbors!

SPECIAL FRIENDS MASS – March 25 at 1:00 p.m.

Grandparents and other Special Friends of St. Matt's students are invited to attend an all-school mass followed by refreshments in their student's classroom and do a craft project with them.

COMMUNAL PENANCE – April 5 at 2:00 p.m. *non sacramental*

HOLY WEEK SERVICES — April 9-12

Holy Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper. **Good Friday** April 10, 3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross; 7:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Word, Adoration of Cross, Communion. **Saturday**, April 11, 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass. **Easter Sunday** Celebration, April 12, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Mass.

ATHLETIC BANQUET — April 26 at 11:30 a.m.

The Men's Club sponsors St. Matthew's Athletic Program and will host a luncheon for all students who played on a team at St. Matthew's this year. The luncheon follows the 10:30 a.m. mass and families of athletes are welcome to come.

CONFIRMATION AT THE CATHEDRAL — April 30 at 7:00 p.m.

REUNION SUNDAY — May 3

All St. Matthew's Alumni are invited to join the parish community for 10:30 a.m. Mass followed by a brunch in the social hall and tours of the school.