



THE GOOD NEWS

FROM ST. MATTHEW

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



Murals by Craig David adorn the west wall in St. Matthew's Church.

West Side Story by Artist Craig David

Anyone who's been inside St. Matthew's Church has noticed one of its most distinctive features — six murals mounted high on the walls. Instead of the traditional stain glass, these large paintings offer a different kind of window onto the West Side — its history, neighborhoods, and most of all, its people.

The three murals on the west wall depict scenes of family and neighborhood life as viewed through the eyes of St. Matthew's alumni and artist, **Craig David ('66)**.

Craig's classmate and fellow artist, **Richard Schletty ('66)**, received the commission for the project and asked Craig to join him.

Through the summer of 1986, the two men worked on the murals in a makeshift studio in St. Matt's gym. It was Craig's first public art project and it marked a change in his career.

This March, nearly 25 years later, Craig will unveil his latest public art project, one which will be seen by thousands of Minnesotans. Craig was commissioned to create a series of murals for the light rail transit

station at the Minnesota Twins newly built Target Field.

Craig's work at Target Field is the most recent addition to his growing portfolio of public art, which includes murals, sculptures and environmental art. A number of his projects are located here on the West Side, including a four panel mosaic mural at the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center depicting the history of Neighborhood House.

Craig says, "One of the reasons I love public art is because it belongs to everybody. No one owns it. That inspires me. It's my way of building community."

The murals Craig created for the Twin's Stadium will be seen by everyone who rides the train to see a game. There are three of them, each a mosaic composed of granite and porcelain, and each with a different theme.

One mural explores the history of professional baseball in Minnesota, showing the old Lexington Park in St. Paul and Nicollet Park field in S.E. Minneapolis. It also celebrates historic but often overlooked

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

2 Fr. Steve Recalls the Making of the Murals

3 Student Council Raises Money for Haiti Relief & School Improvements

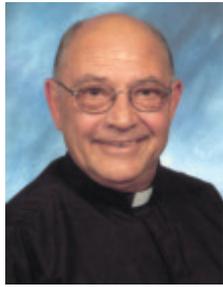
4 Rich Schletty and daughter Anne talk about art in the family

8 Student Art at St. Matt's

10 West Side Art Walk – Take the Tour

11 Missing Alumni Update

MESSAGE FROM **father steve**



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

Dear Saint Matthew Community, Alums and Friends:

In 1886, the Church of Saint Matthew and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church were established as the national churches on the West Side of Saint Paul. German immigrants — Lutheran and Catholic — established houses of worship which would nurture their faith, help them maintain their customs and traditions and provide educational opportunities for immigrant youth. For a century these two congregations became partners in advancing the religious, economic, cultural and educational life of the West Side.

Beginning in 1984, long range plans were being made by both Holy Trinity and Saint Matthew to mark our centennial.

In the fall of 1985, Gordon Barron came to me and offered to make a gift in memory of his wife, who for decades had been the librarian for Humboldt High School. He wanted a memorial to her that would express her passion for West Side youth and her commitment to the West Side. He made a gift of \$5,000.00.

This gift made it possible to dream about an artistic endeavor which would capture the life of our community as we celebrate our 100th anniversary.

The Saint Matthew church building was very functional and simple in design. There was little adornment. It seemed to me that the 100th anniversary may be the time to bring some art work into the church building — art work that reflected the culture and faith life of the West Side community.

In conversations with local artist and parish member, Richard Schletty, the idea of West Side History Murals emerged. An application was made to the National Endowment for the Arts and we received a grant of \$50,000 to do the project.

This funding allowed Saint Matthew's community to commission local artists Richard Schletty and Craig David to produce six murals which would hang in the church, murals depicting the "West Side Story."

I asked the artists to use their own style and imagination to capture the faces and places that would embrace the collective memory of a community — the hopes and dreams, the struggles and challenges. Most of all, I asked to see a multitude of faces — faces which embodied the best of the West Side, and the best of Holy Trinity and Saint Matthew.

During the summer of 1986, the gymnasium of the school became a makeshift studio and the work began.

The timeline for the creation of the murals was tight and both artists worked night and day. On Sunday, September 21, 1986, Archbishop Roach came to celebrate Mass at Saint Matthew and dedicate the murals. At 10:25 am the Archbishop was vested, the procession was ready to begin and the final mural was brought from the gym and hung in the church as the organ introduced the opening hymn of Mass.

For twenty-four years the murals have been a part of the church. Visitors often spend much time viewing the works and locals delight in identifying persons depicted in the murals.

Most churches use stain glass windows to inspire, windows which depict heroes and heroines and faith. At Saint Matthew these murals are the "stain glass windows" which depict the heroes and heroines of our community.

Yours truly,
Stephen Adrian, Pastor



This mural, titled **Families**, is one of three painted by **Richard Schletty** on the east walls of **St. Matthew's Church**.

Raising Money for Haiti

In February, St. Matthew's Student Council staged a fundraiser for Haiti that brought in \$286.76. The money the students raised was added to the parish's Haiti Relief Fund, all of which will provide food for victims of the earthquake.

The student council raised the money by sponsoring Pajama Day, where students who pay \$2.00 can wear their pajamas to school for the day instead of their uniforms.

Student Council President, Bridget Goldenstein and Vice President, Nick Reding, both 8th graders, helped organize the event. They said originally the money was to go into the Student Council Fund but after the earthquake, they changed their plans. Bridget explains, "We had a meeting the week the earthquake happened, so we decided we should do something for them."

They're pleased with the results. Nick says, "Some kids didn't wear pajamas but brought in money anyway." Bridget adds, "When we were counting the money, we had it stacked in piles. It was awesome to see how much people care about others in need."

The money the students raised was donated to Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) to provide meals to earthquake victims in Haiti. FMSC is a nonprofit, based in Eagan, which packages and distributes nutritious meals for hungry children and adults in more than 50 countries. Bridget says, "The money we raised will feed five kids in Haiti for a year."

Working to Improve School

Before the earthquake, the student council intended to spend money from the fundraiser on school improvements. Nick says, "We had planned to use the money to buy more lockers. We want to help the 6th graders — around 20 of them have to share lockers." With enrollment up, the middle school needs about 15 additional lockers which, if bought used, would cost about \$1500.

Bridget and Nick say they'll keep working on the lockers and may have another fundraiser to help pay for them.

It was awesome to see how much people care about others in need.

BRIDGET GOLDENSTEIN



Student Council Vice President Nick Reding and President Bridget Goldenstein.

In the meantime, they're close to achieving another school improvement goal for the year, which is to install a second water fountain in the middle school. Bridget says, "There's only one drinking fountain upstairs that works. We're late for classes because you need to get a drink and there's a long line. We have a spot where it can go — we're removing the old fountain that doesn't work."

The student council started out by raising \$100 to buy a fountain. They received contributions from **Jim Brengman ('72)** and the Men's Club to cover the remaining \$250. In March, the students and volunteers from the Men's Club will work together to install the new fountain.

From earthquake victims in Haiti, to their fellow students at St. Matt's, this year's student council leaders are working hard to make life a little better for others.

In addition to raising the money for Haiti food relief, St. Matt's students volunteer at Feed My Starving Children to help package meals and learn more about world hunger.





Anne Schletty's winning entry in Catholic Spirit's Annual Art Contest.

Artistic Talent Runs in Schletty Family

This past December, St. Matthew's alumni, **Anne Schletty ('07)**, won the Catholic Spirit's annual art contest in which contestants were asked to illustrate a poster with the beginning phrase, "My Christmas prayer is..." Anne's winning poster portrays a series of vignettes showing how people can bring the light of Christ to others, as she explains, "I decided to show different experiences of people spreading Christmas love. In the center is an image of Jesus' birth."

Anne is currently a junior at Cretin-Derham Hall High School and if her drawing strikes a familiar chord, it may be due in part to the influence of her father's work. **Richard Schletty ('66)** painted the three murals mounted on the east walls of St. Matthew's Church.

Anne is the youngest of Richard's seven children, and while many of them have dabbled in the arts, Anne's drawing ability seems to come closest to her father's. In addition to her talent for drawing, Anne has also studied ceramics and photography.

Richard is even more eclectic in his creative endeavors. Besides his work as a print and web designer, Richard is a mural artist, illustrator and photographer, but

he says his main creative outlet these days is music.

Richard credits the nuns and teachers at St. Matthew's for encouraging him in his pursuit of art. He says, "I started St. Matt's in first grade and I remember Sr. Roswitha telling me, 'Oh, you're a really good artist.' That made me think — this is something I should work on." Richard believes it wasn't just getting to draw, but also the opportunity to present his work which helped motivate him. He recalls in Sr. Michael Marie's 7th grade class, he took the lead in creating a class mural depicting the history of the Roman Empire.

In 1986, Richard was commissioned to paint the murals for St. Matthew's Church. He asked his former classmate, **Craig David ('66)** to help, as he explains, "When I discovered Craig was doing art, it just made sense for him to be in on the project. Our styles are

I decided to show different experiences of people spreading Christmas love. In the center is an image of Jesus' birth.

ANNE SCHLETTY '07

Richard Schletty collaborated with John Acosta and Armando Gutierrez on this West Side mural that was completed in 1985. For more info see West Side Art Walk on pg. 10.



different, but that's okay. It worked out alright." He adds, "Fr. Adrian gave us complete freedom. That was ideal."

Richard says it was a challenge to complete all the murals in time for the dedication scheduled for the Feast of St. Matthew's in September. He recalls, "It was a compressed deadline. The day of the dedication, I still had wet oil paint on my center painting called "Traditions." I remember taking it from the gym and hoisting it up, just in time for 10:30 Mass."

Anne wasn't even born when the murals were painted, so she grew up attending Mass surrounded by her father's artwork. She says, "I thought it was fun. I know the people in some of the murals. It gave us something to talk about."

Anne's looking ahead to college and expects she'll continue to study art but doesn't think she'll major in it. She says, "I'm kind of interested in biology and science. I'm very interested in archeology." Anne's currently in Cretin-Derham Hall's Archeology Club and volunteers to sort artifacts for the Minnesota Historical Society.

Richard's fine with that, "I'm not encouraging fine art as a career, but if you have a God-given ability, you should share it."

These days, Richard is busy sharing his musical talents by collaborating with artists from around the world in writing and recording Praise, Worship and Folk songs. He connects with other artists over the Internet through music collaboration sites and email. "I have a major project in the works called "Hungry for Heaven" with a musician in Spain. I am also learning a lot about classical composition from an orchestral composer in Sweden." Richard also sings with Waltham Abbey Singers, a community choir which performs Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque sacred music.

While Anne is quiet and unassuming about her talents, Richard clearly takes a father's pride in her accomplishments. He says, "It's gratifying to see Anne carry on the tradition. Maybe someday we'll do a mural together."



Artist father Richard with daughter Anne.



The watercolor of St. Matthew School that appears on each edition of *The Good News* was painted by artist **Marian Wolters ('51)**. You can see a large copy of the original in the school's office. To see Marion's other work, visit her website at web.mac.com/mewolters.



Craig David story, *continued from page 1*

players such as Toni Stone, an African-American woman born in St. Paul, who was the only woman to play in the professional men's Negro League. One of Toni's accomplishments was to get a hit off of legendary pitcher Satchel Paige.

Another mural presents the image of five kids in a boat, fishing, while it explores the larger issue of sustainability and the importance of preserving our water resources.

The third mural is about transit itself. It shows two sweeping train lines, one for an old passenger train and one for the new light rail. The mural swarms with people and at the center stands a beautiful woman holding a

little boy. Craig says, "Most of the mural is in porcelain but the woman is in granite — she's wearing a \$500 outfit made of pink and blue swirls."

Next to the woman and child is another young woman in a wheelchair who hadn't been part of Craig's original plans. He says, "At a Twins Stadium Open House, a woman in a wheelchair came up to me and asked, 'Is there any way you could put a person in a wheelchair in your mural?' I said, 'Of course!' People in wheelchairs use public transportation a lot. So we used her as a model. It gave the whole work a deeper meaning."

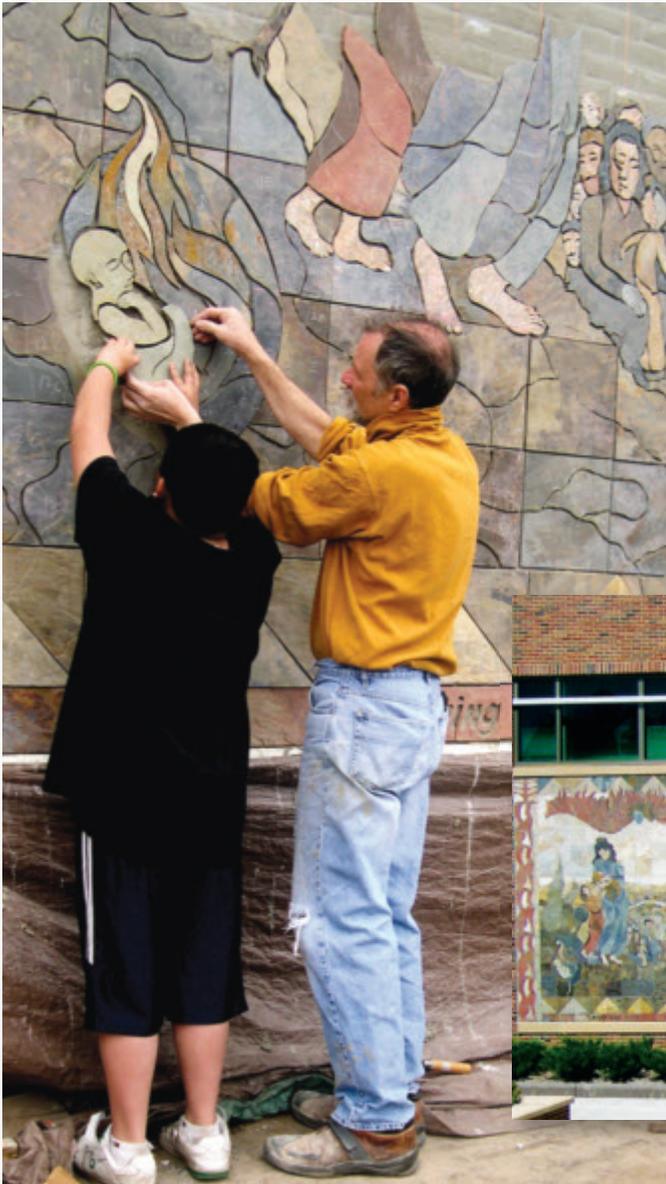
Craig says that's typical of how his projects develop, a point he always explains to his clients, "At the start I tell them, 'Here's the concept but the finished work won't look like this.' I begin creating and things evolve. I also tell them, 'You'll be thrilled with this when it's done.' They bank on that. They give me their trust."

Besides a few years Craig spent teaching in Oregon, he's been a lifelong West Sider, as has his partner of 17 years, Mary Aguilar. His studio is in the old Wolters Greenhouse on Bernard Street.

While inspiration comes to Craig from all corners, growing up on the West Side has helped shape his

LEFT Craig David works with student on Neighborhood House mural.

BELOW Craig David's four panel mosaic mural at the Wellstone Center depicts the history of Neighborhood House.



artistic vision. He says, "My public art — a lot of it is about immigrants. The Irish, my ancestors, were down on the Flats. There are beautiful, colorful stories. But it was a tough life."

Craig is working on a new project which will also have a home on the West Side. He's building a fountain, his first ever, for St. Paul's Raspberry Island, "It's a 14 foot tall, granite sculpture, with four glass river motifs."

While Craig has steady work now, he knows how hard it is to get established. "I've been doing this since I was 15-16 years old. Finally, I'm making a living in my 50's. It took 30 years to make it pay."

The competition for each job is fierce, "There are so many talented people out there who would love to do this work." He attributes his success in part to persistence. "My mother says, 'You're so talented!' He shakes his head, "I'm just persistent. I'm dedicated to what I do."

His advice to someone starting out, "If you want to be an artist, you have to stick it out. Just keep doing the work. I even have to tell myself that sometimes. Partway through a job, I may be frustrated, not happy with how it's going, but I just do the work. And it comes out okay."

ABOVE A closeup of the Mariachi's panel from the Wellstone Center mural.

BELOW "Goddess of the Trains," one of three murals created for the transit station at the Twins new ballpark. At right is a close up of the same mural.



Students Make Art Both Inside and Outside the Classroom

Last Fall, St. Matthew's Middle School students began work on a mural that spans the playground wall next to Robie Street. The project was suspended for the winter months but work will resume when the snow melts and plans are for it to be completed this spring.



The project is being supervised by St. Matthew's art teacher, Geri (Johnson) Padelford ('69) (pictured at right) who is also an alumni of the school. Geri, who joined the teaching staff eight years ago, teaches art to students at St. Matt's every Monday.

The idea for a mural grew out of a warm spring day last year when Geri decided the best way to deal with the students' spring fever was to take them outside for class. She says, "We were doing beautiful art graffiti on the walls." The principal liked it and asked about making it permanent

Geri says, "My idea was to take the mission of our parish and school as the foundation for the mural." To get started, Geri asked the students to think about words that would be associated with the mission. "They came back with a lot of ideas, abstract images — things with lots of colors."

The mural has been covered with snow for most of the winter and Geri says, "It's not looking so great now but when it's done this spring it's going to be awesome."

Geri says most of the work the students do winds up going home with them and doesn't get seen by many people. The mural will be different, "This is a project that everyone will see. It will endure over time." Geri also thinks it broadens the students' perspective about what art is, "It opens their eyes to different kinds of artwork available for us to do."

She says the kids are definitely into the mural, although it helps when the weather is nice, "They're collaborating and get to work side by side. There's a bit of social time — it's a different environment — they're learning and doing."

Geri thinks for students who struggle with academics, art provides an opportunity for them to be successful. "There's a sense of pride that this came from your hands, your imagination, your heart. That sense of pride can carry over into other areas."

1 | Isela Romo, 1st grade — sponge painted snowman



2 | Ariana Menez, 8th grade — puzzle design art



3 | Bridget Goldenstein, 8th grade — puzzle design art



4

4 | Argentina Lerma, 5th grade — oil pastel stain glass

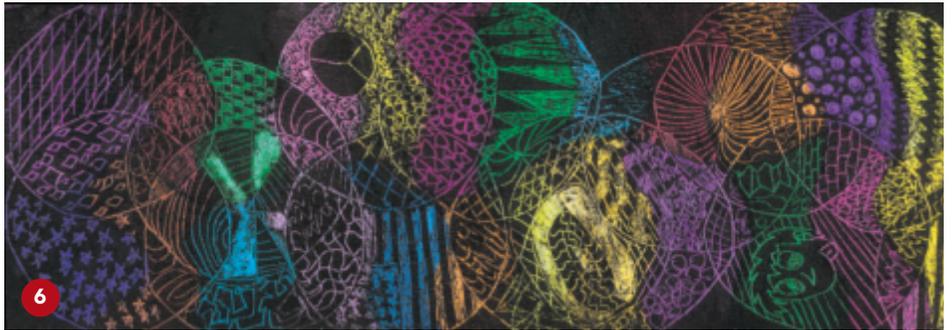


5

5 | Monique Roquemore, 8th grade — puzzle design art



7



6

6 | Samantha Guevara, 6th grade — scrafitto

7 | Brynne Hebert, 1st grade — sponge painted snowman

8 | Nicole Brown, 8th grade — puzzle design art

9 | Alyssa Galaviz, 6th grade — scrafitto



8



9

EDITOR'S NOTE:

There are no images of the mural pictured because at the time of publication the wall was covered with snow. Students will resume work on the mural this spring. Stop by as the weather warms and watch it grow.

West Side Art Walk

#1 Six murals portraying the artists' view of life on the West Side. The murals are mounted on the interior walls of the church. Paintings on the west wall are by Craig David, those on the east wall are by Richard Schletty. **LOCATION:** St. Matthew's Church at Robie St. and Hall Ave.

#2 "Journey of the River and the Sun," Craig David's stone sculpture and landscape, uses stones from the old Wabasha St. Bridge and depicts immigrant's journey across the river. **LOCATION:** Cesar Chavez and Wabasha Streets, across from Boca Chica Restaurant.

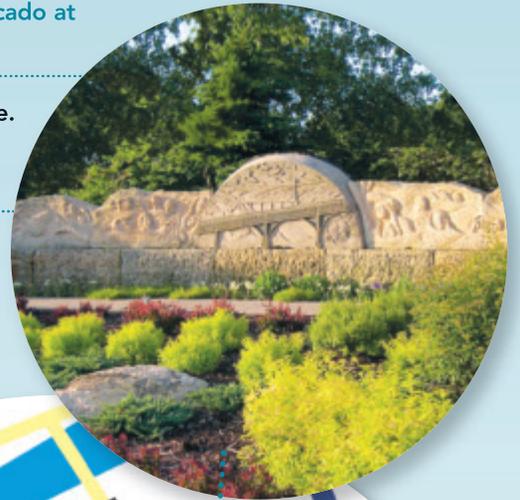
#3 Craig David painted this mural in collaboration with Teens Networking Together. It depicts global heroes above and youth engaged in heroic acts below. **LOCATION:** El Burrito Mercado at Concord and State Street.

#4 In four mosaic murals, Craig David depicts the history of Neighborhood House. The murals are on the front façade of the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center. **LOCATION:** The Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center, 179 East Robie St.

#5 "Hunger Has No Color" was created by Richard Schletty, John Acosta and Armando Gutierrez. The mural depicts people of different nationalities working to eliminate hunger. Plans for its restoration are in the works. **LOCATION:** The South wall of Captain Ken's Firehouse Beans building at 344 S. Robert across the street from the Girl Scout Council.

#6 Eight vignettes painted by Craig David represent the various ethnicities who, over the years, have formed a community on the West Side. **LOCATION:** On George Street as it passes over the Robert Street Viaduct.

#7 "Allegory of the Immigrants" is represented in eight hand-carved limestone panels Craig David created for the pedestrian entrance to Harriet Island. The images are based on stories about immigrants to the West Side Flats. **LOCATION:** Harriet Island Regional Park, Pedestrian Entrance at Plato and Justus O'Hage Boulevards.



Southview Senior Living mascot, Benji, with friend Dick Littfin.



From the Editor

Over 200 Alumni Found – 750 Still Missing

In the last issue, we listed nearly 1000 names of St. Matt's alumni for whom we had no current address. Since that issue, we've received information on over 200 people on that list, and in some cases, we heard from the "missing" themselves. My personal favorite was from "Chip" Schwartz ('61) who said that despite a teacher's prediction that he would wind up in jail before the age of 16, he'd worked for 31 years in law enforcement and had been a Deputy Chief with the Edina Police Dept.

But of all those who sent in names, I'd like to give special recognition to **Dick Littfin ('44)**. Over a period of weeks, Dick turned in page after type-written page of names and addresses totaling almost 100 alumni.

Dick's strategy was simple, "I went through the list and if there was a family name I knew, I'd contact one family member and they'd call back with a list of their siblings, where they lived and who they married." In some cases, he says, more digging was required, "Sometimes I'd ask, 'Can you give me a clue about how to get a hold of that individual? They'd give me a phone number and I spent a lot of time calling. I bounced around from California, Texas, Arizona, Florida. I've got a cell phone that's free in the evening, so it didn't cost anything."

Dick says he did it in part because he's retired and has the time. But in talking with him, it's clear he feels a deep connection to the parish where he grew up and eventually raised his own family, together with his wife, Mary, who died in 2006 after 52 years of marriage.

Dick's grandfather, John Littfin, worked in construction and helped build the school back in 1909. Family lore has it that his grandfather was the one to place the statue of St. Matthew in its niche over the main entrance of the school.

So thanks to Dick Littfin and everyone else who helped us find missing alumni, your efforts have made a big difference. But the jobs not done — we still have more names to find. So we're asking each reader to pick out one familiar family from the list of missing alumni in the Jan/Feb issue of *The Good News*, then try what Dick Littfin did to help us add more graduates to our mailing list. We appreciate your time, your ingenuity and your commitment to helping ensure the future of St. Matthew's School.

— Maggie Lee, Editor

Belated thanks...

We'd like to recognize two donors whose names were not included in the Alumni & Friends Annual Report. **Ray Marschall** and **George Kronschnabel** both contributed to A&F's Scholarship Fund last year and we thank them for their support.

Now, looking ahead...

We'd also like to ask for your continued support. With the financial backing of A&F's Scholarship program, over the last two years enrollment at St. Matthew's has increased by over 40%. At a time when Catholic School enrollment is declining, particularly at urban schools, this is a great accomplishment. It couldn't have happened without your support. So thank you for providing the gift of Catholic education to a new generation of children on the West Side. As you know, it's a gift they'll benefit from all their lives.

REUNION SUNDAY – MAY 2, 2010 Invite your Classmates!

All alumni are invited to St. Matthew's annual Reunion Sunday with special recognition to those who graduated in a year ending in "5" or "0."

Alumni are encouraged to join us for 10:30 a.m. Mass which will be followed by a simple brunch in the social hall and a tour of the school. This is a way for the whole parish to celebrate the long history of our school and the success of our graduates, so please come.

For more information or to RSVP, contact 651-224-6912 or email AlumniNews@st-matts.org. See you there!



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www.st-matts.org

The Community of St. Matthew

Hall Ave. and Robie St.
St. Paul, MN 55107

Pastor: Fr. Steve Adrian

Parish Office: 651-224-9793

Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday - 5 p.m.

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

www.st-matts.org

EVENTS calendar

LENTEN FISH FRY — March 5, 12, 19, 26

Regular serving time is from 5-7:30 p.m. with a Senior Citizen Special from 4-5 p.m. The Fish Fries are co-sponsored by the Men's Club, the Rosary Society, Scouts, Home & School and Casa Guadalupana. We also dedicate a portion of our profits to the Street Children of Bucharest.

MEN'S CLUB MEETING & IRISH SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST — March 10 at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting and contest will take place in the Social Hall.

NEW FAMILY INFORMATION NIGHT AT SCHOOL — March 18 at 6:30 p.m.

For parents with children not currently enrolled at St. Matthew's, 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!

CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS — March 28 at 2:00 p.m. *(non sacramental)*

HOLY WEEK SERVICES — April 1-4

Holy Thursday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. Mass

Good Friday, April 2, 3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross; 7:00 p.m. Solemn Liturgy

Holy Saturday, April 3, 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday Celebration, April 4, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Mass

CONFIRMATION — April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Cathedral of Saint Paul

ATHLETIC BANQUET – April 25 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.

REUNION SUNDAY — May 2

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

See pg. 11 for details.