



THE GOOD NEWS

May/June 2012
Issue 30

FROM ST. MATTHEW

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

Happy 70th Birthday Fr. Steve!

After 34 years, Fr. Steve Adrian will retire from his pastoral duties at St. Matthew's. But even in retirement, he will continue his work to make Catholic education available to all children on the West Side. Of the nearly 170 St. Matt's students pictured here, 90% receive tuition assistance. Most of these same students have already registered for Community of Saints Regional Catholic School. Fr. Steve is committed to working with A&F to raise tuition assistance to ensure a Catholic education remains possible for these students. (See Fr. Steve's column on page 2).

See pp 7-11 for a brief glimpse into Fr. Steve's 34 years at St. Matthew's.

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Community of Saints Exceeds Early Registration Goals!
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Graduating Class of '62
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MESSAGE FROM **father steve**

Dear Alums and Friends of Saint Matthew School:

On April 15th I turned 70. Thank you for all the gracious birthday greetings.

On July 1st of this year I will retire as pastor of the Church of Saint Matthew. (Priests are asked to retire from positions of major responsibility at age 70).

Many people have asked me what I plan to do when I retire.

For 44 years as a priest and for 34 years as pastor of the Community of Saint Matthew I have committed myself to leading a community in being "a visible expression of God's love in the world". And, for 44 years I have been associated daily with a Catholic School — elementary and/or secondary. Schools and Catholic education are a part of my life. I cannot see myself not involved in the promotion and development of educational opportunities for young people.

The Archbishop has asked that in retirement I "continue to provide assistance to parishes and also to assist the work of developing the Community of Saints Regional Catholic School".

I shall continue to be an active member of the steering committee for Alums and Friends of Saint Matthew School. This effort has been effective in reconnecting alums and friends with each other through the Good News and annual events. Alums and Friends has and continues to fund tuition assistance for low income Saint Matt's families which make it possible for this generation of students to receive a high quality Catholic education.

I am enthusiastic about the prospects for Community of Saints Regional Catholic School (CSRCS). This development will provide a strong sustainable Catholic School opportunity for our community for years to come. I told Fr. Michael Rudolph, pastor of Saint Matthew as of July 1st, and Mr. Lieser, current principal of Saint Matthew and new President of Community of Saints, that I stand ready and willing to assist in the development and strengthening of our school in any way they see my participation as helpful.

So, while I will no longer have a formal role I will bring my time and energy and commitment to the work of Community of Saints and the Saint Matthew Alums and Friends.

I thank you for your generous and enthusiastic support over the years; and I invite and encourage you to join me as together we continue our work to provide the opportunity for a high quality Catholic education for students of this generation.

Yours truly,

Stephen Adrian, Pastor, Church of Saint Matthew



Please join us as we celebrate Fr. Steve's service to St. Matthew's and send him forth into the next phase of his life.

On **Saturday, June 23**, we will celebrate 4:30 p.m. Mass at Cherokee Park followed by a potluck picnic. The Men's Club will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, brats & buns, and the Rosary Society will provide plates, silverware and napkins. Bring a dish to pass, chairs and a party spirit. The pavilion is reserved until 9 p.m.

Sunday, June 24, 2-5 p.m. there will be a reception in the Social Hall. Everyone is welcome.

With Over 250 Students — Registration Soars at Community of Saints

Community of Saints is off to a strong start! As of early April, over 250 students have registered for K-8 so far, including 18 kindergarteners. Almost half the students currently registered come from St. Matt's.

The number of families who have committed to the regional school is welcome news to Community of Saints president and current St. Matthew's principal, Doug Lieser. "These strong registration numbers tell me the school is in a position to be successful," Doug says. "Before registration, the question was — is this going to be a vital, viable school? That's cleared up now. We have solid numbers and those numbers tell us this school is something our families believe in."

Initially, registration was limited to families from the three combining schools: St. Matthew, St. Michael and St. John Vianney. But as of April 1st, Community of Saints has opened up registration to nonschool families and Doug reports there's growing interest. "There's been a steady trickle of families coming to us from other schools — both Catholic and public," Doug says. "I think we'll continue to see that throughout the spring."

In addition to the three combining schools and parishes, Doug is encouraged by the strong support from the fourth sponsoring parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG). "St. Matt's has always had an indirect relationship with OLG since many of our families come from there," he says. "But now it's a direct relationship. Fr. Kenney is really encouraging families to check out the school."

A Good Problem to Have

With 250 students registered early, the Board of Directors now needs to decide what the limits will be for each class, grade and for the school as a whole, a problem everyone agrees is a good one to have.

"We're still going to be a small school. Teachers and administrators will know these students well and give them the individual attention they need." Doug says. "But having that little bit larger size lets you get the best of both worlds — the advantages of a bigger school while retaining the small school environment."

Doug will work with the Board to set limits on enrollment, a decision that needs to take many factors

into account. He cites next year's kindergarten class as an example. "With 18 kindergarteners already registered, should we dedicate two classrooms for that grade and plan to register more students or do we need to cap it at one classroom and start a waiting list?"

Both the Board and Administration agree that they'd like to accommodate as many students as possible, but they're also committed to creating a positive classroom environment, with adequate space and good student — teacher ratios. While it's clearly a challenging process, Doug says, "We're much farther along than we anticipated at this point."

St. Matt's families have played a crucial role in all stages of the planning process, reflecting a strong commitment to maintaining Catholic education on the West Side. "Everything we're doing is to support students in this community." Doug says. "We may be in a different building, but we'll be serving the same kids we do right now. St. Matt's longstanding commitment to make a high quality Catholic education available to all families is part of what will make Community of Saints a success."

Student Enrollment at a Glance

How many students registered early? 250 for K-8

What's the maximum number of students that could be registered? The exact number is not yet determined but estimates are 300-325.

How many classrooms per grade? Currently we estimate that half of the grades will have two classrooms.

Who decides? The Board of Directors together with the Community of Saints administration. The goal is to accommodate the most students possible while maintaining a comfortable and successful learning environment.

Will students attend classrooms outside of the school due to limited space? No. All classrooms will be in the school. Enrichment activities such as tutoring or KLT might take place in the parish center.

What happens when a class is full? We'll establish a waiting list.

How can someone learn more about the school?

Contact Doug Lieser, 651-224-6912 or email to dlieser@communityofsaints.org

St. Matt's Graduating Class of 2012 Thanks Alums for Support

In April, St. Matt's alums who contributed to A&F's tuition assistance fund, were invited to a school Mass followed by a reception in the social hall where they met with 8th grade students. It was an opportunity for the students, many of whom have received tuition assistance themselves, to thank the alums for their support.



Pilar Garcia and Mary McKeown



Janet Lackner and Athenia Garcia



Freddy Dunn, Markie Acesor and Janet and Dwaine Troje



Nia Rivera-Prescott, Peter Willems and Sam Guevara



Jessica Lackner, Sr. Paulissa Jirik, Sr. Rita Jirik, Athena Garcia, and Amelia Franco



Freddy Dunn, Chris Acesor, Beth Geis, and Timothy Lee

St. Matt's Girls Win CAA Basketball Championship!

St. Matt's 5th & 6th grade girls basketball team won the 6th grade championship this year. They were undefeated throughout the season, beating St. Joe's, Nativity and finally St. Agnes in the playoffs. All of the girls have registered for Community of Saints next year so this team will be staying together.

Front row, left – right: Bonita Franco, Tiana Ivy, Serena Monita, Lili Silva

Back row, left – right: Coach Santino Franco, Kayla Maloney, Peggy Lee Dunn, Aliah Lopez, Autum Mendez, Allie Reding, Coach Frank Hernandez





R6, l-r | John Zazada, Tom Seidl, Steven Peterson, Richard Thill, Robert Michaelson†, Joe Schletty, Robert Kukacka, Gregory Lancette, Conrad House, William Wiblishauser, Dennis Griffin, Gerald Nutzman, Bill Maher, Duane Bronk, Harvey Biron, David Becker†, Joe Stelter†

R5, l-r | Peter Zarate, Michael Koller, David Kuhns, David Trapp, Kathleen Warner, Carolyn Waldo, Marilyn Kisch, Tina Isaac, Susan Aydt, Dorothy Trettle, Kathy Anderson, Linda Lorch, Patrica Crisman, Tom Schadegg, Gary Mosberger, John Bejblik, Peter Nasseff

R4, l-r | Greg Rasmussen, Patrick Shanley, Jay Bonello, James John, James Gabriel, Charles Baurer, Michael Smith, Daniel Wessel, Roy Simmons, Tom Lundgren, Robert Allie†, Paul Burth, Ed Benoe, Martin Madsen, Tom Schmidt, Phillip Adam, Jerome Osterman, Donald Schulte†

Class of 1962



R3, l-r | Mary Jo Pagel, Diane Valen, Elizabeth Blissenbach, Linda Leko, Loreen Seivert, Doris Kammerer, Mary Ellen Reuter, Patricia Monsour, Mary Deidrich, Ann Marxer†, Lynn Traynor, Margaret Sullivan, Kathleen Darlow, Robyn Rover†, Patricia Grogan, Diane Delmont, Sandra Boehmer, Carol Schaefer, Catherine Schmidt

R2, l-r | Jack Booton, Gary Guldberg, Frank Soukup†, Lawrence Abel, Stephen Vessey+, Leo Ruberto, Mike Burns, Richard Jorgensen, William Uhlenkott, Michael Vallant, Roger Simmons, Joe Exley, Rudy Thell, James Ernst, Stephen Gross, James Lotzer

R1, l-r | Mary Jane Ferber, Dianne Doffing, Cecelia Pike, Debbie Kaase, Lea Mary Frank, Linda Korsell, Carol Nafus, Marie Riehle, Janice Ahlman, Charlene Wazlawik, Barbara Clancy, Jeanne Peterson, Joan Rosenberger, Kathy Skradski, Valerie Neveu, Jane Moyer

Not pictured: Gerald Shomion

† deceased



THANK YOU FR. STEVE!

After 34 years as St. Matthew's pastor, Fr. Steve Adrian is retiring in June. We've done a little math and have calculated that over those years he's performed over 3000 baptisms, 1000 First Communions and 500 weddings. The following pages represent a random pictorial history, including a few select comments from his siblings, parishioners and students.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks to EVERYONE who sent in photos. Not surprisingly, we had far more than we could include but we appreciated all the submissions.



WHAT I LEARNED FROM FR. STEVE:
 "That God died for us and it is good to give thanks to God."
 "That God loves us and will always protect us."





WHAT I LEARNED FROM FR. STEVE:
 "I learned from you that it is important to be nice to everyone. Not just your own friends."



I always commuted 20-30 miles to work so few co-workers personally knew Carol, or the West Side or where St. Matthew's was. I might mention it when talking to them about fish fries, fall festivals, wine tastings or other events they might wish to come to. I often would mention Fr. Steve as a primary reason for my involvement with the church.

When Carol passed, Fr. Steve suggested an evening funeral, which made attendance much easier for co-workers, friends and family (he was always so accommodating in that regard). Father did a masterful job at the mass and captured her persona in ways that touched many in the audience. The next day, co-workers who had traveled many miles to attend (consulting MapQuest before leaving home I am sure) came up to me and expressed their amazement with both the words he had used and the pictures he had painted for them. To those who had never met her it was likely the only chance they would have of being touched by her story and short time on earth. Fr. Steve probably never heard enough 'thank you's' for the peaceful, guiding presence he provided to those grieving the loss of a loved one. The verbal pictures he painted for those who never knew the departed made it possible for them to understand the depth of loss being felt. Speaking for many others I am sure, I would like to thank him now.

Steven Grundei



In the Adrian family, Steve is the oldest child. You know the first child can't do anything wrong and usually gets special treatment. That's what it was like in the Adrian family.

As his four younger siblings, we could not understand why we often got in trouble, and yet Steve walked away scott free. As time went on, we finally got a glimpse into why this may have been the case.

Here's an example:

When Steve was in 6th grade, he took on a paper route. Before the route started, he hired his two brothers to be his business partners. As good business partners, we helped deliver papers each day. Back then there was a morning and evening newspaper, so this was a pretty large undertaking.

After a week or two of delivering papers, Steve told us our work was top notch and he wanted to reward us. He said we were so good at delivering papers he was going to let us do the route by ourselves. Steve had a way of making this sound like we were in charge. This was big stuff for us, and we swallowed it hook, line and sinker.

It was a few weeks later when Steve announced to us, "Because you are doing so well delivering papers I'll give you 40% of the profit." We felt like we had just received a great business deal. At that time we didn't even know what a percent was. It was only after several months that we started to question this arrangement why we did all the work and he got most of the profits. Pretty savvy for a 6th grader!

In a more caring and honest way we, Steve's brothers and sisters, have come to know, understand and be proud of the high quality of service, care and love he has lived out. We admire his work and celebrate the service he has given to the people of God over the years.

Steve, we hope you will enjoy a great retirement.

Peace.

Your brothers and sisters,
Mike, Sam, Ann Marie and Mary Margaret

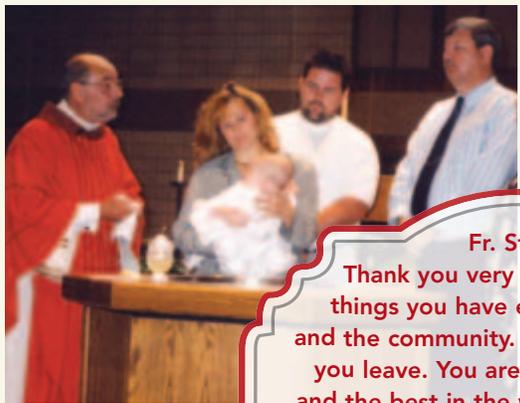




Fr. Steve;

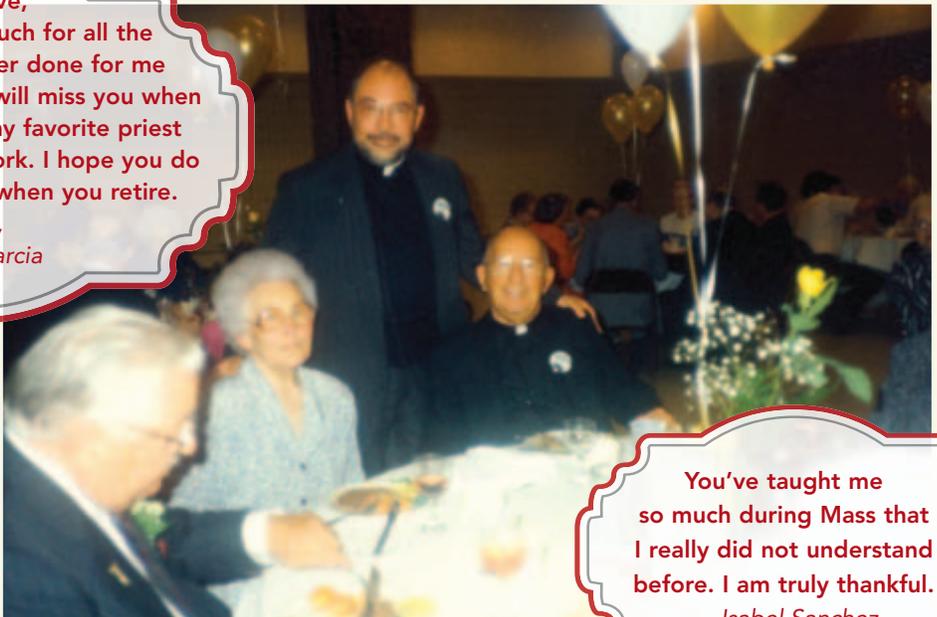
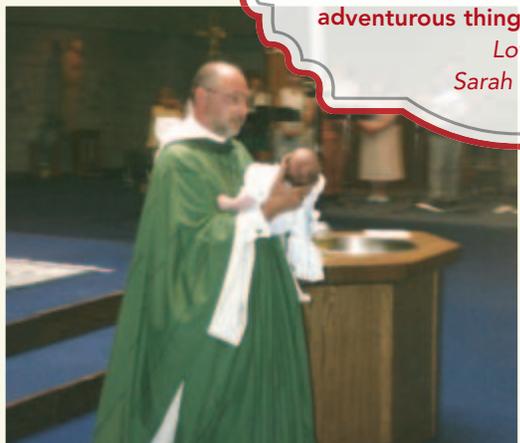
Over the years you have led us to a fuller, more comprehensive understanding of our Catholic faith and tradition. Through you we have come to understand and cherish the intellectual, historical, and spiritual dimension which has formed the basis of how we try to live our daily lives and through which we approach our most difficult trials and decisions. We are blessed to call you our pastor. Fr. Steve, you will forever be an integral part of our lives. May God bless you with a meaningful and pleasing retirement.

Bob and Judy DeNardo



Fr. Steve,
Thank you very much for all the things you have ever done for me and the community. I will miss you when you leave. You are my favorite priest and the best in the work. I hope you do adventurous things when you retire.

Love,
Sarah Garcia



You've taught me so much during Mass that I really did not understand before. I am truly thankful.
— Isabel Sanchez





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Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday - 5 p.m.

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

www.st-matts.org

EVENTS calendar

SPRING SCHOOL CONCERT — May 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Come and enjoy an evening of music as students in Kindergarten – 5th grade sing popular songs.

SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR — May 18, 5–6:15 p.m.

The Science Fair exhibits will be on display in the Social Hall.

WEST ST PAUL DAYS CO-ED SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT — May 19, 9 a.m.

Taking place at Harmon Park at Bernard and Charlton, be sure to stop by the concession stand where St. Matt's Men's Club will be raising money by serving up burgers, brats and hot dogs on the grill.

MEET THE COMMUNITY OF SAINTS KINDERGARTEN TEACHER — May 21, 6–7:30 p.m.

Everyone with a child entering kindergarten next year is welcome to meet our new teacher! The event will take place at the future school site, 335 East Hurley, West St. Paul. Open to families who have already registered as well as families seeking info. Bring your child, meet the teacher and learn about our curriculum. For details call 651-224-6912.

8TH GRADE GRADUATION — June 3 at 10:30 a.m. Mass

St. Matthew's 8th grade class of 2012 will have their graduation ceremony during the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Afterwards, there will be a luncheon in the social hall for family and friends of the graduates.

PRAYER SERVICE ON LAST DAY OF SCHOOL — June 8 at 9:00 a.m.

MEN'S CLUB MEETING — June 13 at 8 p.m. in the Social Hall.

All men of the are welcome!

CELEBRATING FR. STEVE'S SERVICE AS HE RETIRES

Saturday, June 23, 4:30 p.m. Mass at Cherokee Park followed by a potluck picnic.

Sunday, June 24, 2–4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to enjoy cake in the Social Hall.

See pg. 2 for details.