



THE GOOD NEWS

November/December 2008
Issue 9

FROM ST. MATTHEW

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

Welcome New Students!
St. Matt's has 30 new students in 1st – 8th grade (right) and 28 in Kindergarten.



New Families Say Why They Choose St. Matt's

So, who are the new families behind the increased enrollment and why did they choose St. Matthew's? Not surprisingly, they all have different stories, but to get an idea, here are four families who explain why they're now sending their children to St. Matthew's.

West Siders/Parishioners

Jim and Monica Plaster live on the West Side within walking distance of school. They have been parishioners since they were married at St. Matt's over 10 years ago. While Jim currently works nights at Federal Express, Monica stays home to care for their three daughters, ages 10, 7 and 3.

Monica grew up on the West Side and went to Catholic schools herself, first Our Lady of Guadalupe and after that closed, St. Stanislav. She liked the experience and says, "It's true what they say about it being one big family."

Her daughters were baptized at St. Matt's and attended religious education classes there,

but she never seriously thought about sending them to St. Matthew's school. "I always wanted to send my children to Catholic school. We'd receive letters from St. Matt's about the school but my husband and I felt we couldn't afford this."

Instead they sent their daughters to a public school on the West Side and Monica got involved in their education. But she wasn't happy about what she saw. "I work a lot with my children to be nice to everyone. But my kids were being punished for the misbehavior of others. They went to lunch and it felt like they were in prison. After five years of public school, I felt there had to be another way."

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MESSAGE FROM **father steve**



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

Dear Saint Matthew School Alums and Friends:

For the past thirty years I have had the privilege of being a member of Saint Matthew's Parish and the opportunity to serve this community as pastor. In December of 1968, I was called by the Church to live my baptismal life as a Catholic priest. In May of 1942, I was inserted into the mystery of Christ and called to discipleship through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Over the past 66 years, I have come to learn that the foundation of my life as a person of faith, the primal call to life in Christ, the source of my identity and destiny is rooted in the Sacrament of Baptism.

Through the Sacrament of Ordination I am called to live out my baptismal life as a Eucharistic minister with and for a community of faith.

A pastor is a person chosen and assigned to leadership in the institutional life of the Church. Pastoring is a role exercised with and for a community of faith.

In December I will celebrate the 40th anniversary of my ordination.

I am grateful for the thousands of opportunities I have had in these 40 years to enter into the lives of individuals and families. I am thankful for the chance to play a role in the faith life of many. I am humbled by the many ways my life has been and is blessed.

The focus of my energies in these years has been strongly directed to the needs of children and youth; especially in areas of education and growth in faith. Every single day of the past forty years I have exercised a role in the operations of an elementary or secondary school. All of these forty years have been spent in inner urban neighborhoods — first in South Minneapolis and then on the West Side of St. Paul.

An educational opportunity for moderate and low income families is fundamental to the success of the next generation of leaders of our communities. Strong educational opportunities allow young people not only to dream about their future but actually to accomplish that dream.

On December 7th a parish celebration of my 40 years as a priest will take place. The proceeds from this dinner and celebration will go to the annual campaign of Alumni and Friends of Saint Matthew's School to provide scholarship assistance to new students and families seeking an education at Saint Matthew's School. Last year this fund was able to raise more than \$120,000 and to attract an increase in enrollment of 44 students.

Mark your calendar for December 7th. You will receive an invitation in the mail.

Yours truly,
Stephen Adrian, Pastor

I am grateful for the thousands of opportunities I have had in these 40 years to enter into the lives of individuals and families.

FATHER STEVE



Father Steve in his first year of ordination. For information on the celebration of his 40th Anniversary as a priest see page 11.

Men's Club Supports Youth and Parish

"Always Doing What Needed to be Done"

By Marian Wolters '51

In 1956 the men of our parish organized to help the parish in special ways. Their charter states their goal is "to support activities for the youth of the parish and the community, to help in the needs of the parish, and to promote a spirit of friendship and good will among its members." They began meeting in the school gymnasium. The men met monthly to discuss business, play cards, get to know one another, and even have a meal. Just like in Garrison Keillor's Lake Wobegon, the men of Saint Matthew's have always done what needed to be done.

The new church Social Hall gave the men a new home in 1968 which they have continuously improved. They have provided labor and/or materials for many projects such as sound dampening product around the room soffit. They updated the sound and television systems. They even removed the stage a few years ago.

The 70's and 80's were great fundraising years when the games allowed in churches far exceeded Bingo. The Fishermen's Party was huge. Recently, the major fund raisers are the wine tasting event in November, the Lenten fish fries, and meat raffles our men run in conjunction with the South Robert Street Business Association. You can support the meat raffles any Friday night, Thursday nights in summer or Saturday afternoons in winter at Gallagher's Bar on Dodd Road and Annapolis Street.

Income from the fish fries is shared with the Rosary Society, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the Street Children of Bucharest. Over the years the Men's Club has purchased a steam table, a deep fryer, steam table pans, a hot box, plastic bus tubs, service carts, silverware, coffee pots, and cooking sheets, which have all contributed to the success of the fish fries as well as all parish kitchen projects.

The Men's Club pays the salaries of coaches for all the school's team sports. They pay for equipment and uniforms as needed.

Last year, the Humboldt football coach joined the Men's Club and started new traditions. During the pre-season our men have made lunches for the team. On a recent Saturday they cooked and served a substantial breakfast before an



Men's Club members cook up fish during Lenten fish fry.

afternoon game. The team has reciprocated by helping clean up after parish activities like fish fries and the fall festival. They were especially helpful when the priests' house was emptied last fall. Their energy moved many years of accumulation to get ready for the estate sale.

This reporter takes the responsibility of listing just some of men she has observed at work over the years: Larry Simmons, Tom Quinlan, Don Boehmer, Con Gross, Al Gross, Bud Griffin, Clarence Kammerer, Tom Steinbrenner, Tom Maloney, Harry Brady, Red Wagner, Ed Meyer, Bill Brengman, and recently Tim Nowak, Bob Nowak, and Brian Osborne. I apologize to those I may have missed. Notice a plaque on the back of the first pillar near the windows in church. It is the honor roll of deceased members of the Men's Club.

Some estimate that only 15% of the men of the parish belong to the their club. Every man is heartily invited to join this important group. You are all invited to the regular meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall. Their actions contribute significantly to the success of our parish. This is a place where fun and friendship thrive.

For more information or to join the Men's Club, email:
timothy.nowak@usfamily.net

Every holiday season the Men's Club sets up the Nativity Scene in front of the old parish house.



New Families, *continued from page 1*

The Plaster Family

The turning point came when Monica talked to a friend who was a public school teacher; she said Monica should think about what's best for her children. "So I called St. Matt's. I sat down with the principal who told me everything. I always wanted my kids to go to Catholic school and when he told me no children were turned away I kind of broke down. I was crying from joy."

She says the difference in schools is like night and day. "My children, they like to learn. They're so happy to go there....My 5th grade daughter had a chance to say the Our Father over the loud speaker. They feel important."

She acknowledges that St. Matt's was always there, even though she didn't think it was possible. Now, she knows it is. And, she says, "It's like a gift received."

From Puerto Rico to Minnesota

Sandra Robles moved to Minnesota from Puerto Rico seven years ago to help her mother-in-law recover from open heart surgery. Since then, she and her husband have divorced and she is raising her three children, ages 16, 12 and 11, while working at Sam's Club. While her children are all bilingual, Sandra understands English but has more difficulty speaking it.

Sandra's children had already changed schools a few times when moving from Apple Valley to Cottage Grove. They moved again last summer to the East Side of St. Paul but Sandra didn't want to enroll her children in the St. Paul Public Schools. Her oldest son was able to continue high school in Cottage Grove but she put off a decision about her younger children.

Sandra knew about St. Matthew's from her childhood



Roxanny Armendariz (far left) with two of her children, Sandra Robles (second from left) with Natalie & Kevin.

friends, Roxanny Armendariz and her sister, Jacky Torres. All three grew up together in Puerto Rico but the sisters lost contact with Sandra over the years. They reunited by chance when Roxanny, who lives on the West Side, ran into Sandra's ex-husband at a gas station.

Since Roxanny's and Jacky's children attend St. Matthew's, Roxanny asked Sandra, "Why don't you consider St. Matt's?" Sandra thought she wouldn't be accepted because she couldn't afford tuition. But Roxanny persisted, "They will never turn you down. Just go talk with them. Money's not an issue at St. Matt's."

When Sandra finally agreed to meet with Doug Lieser, St. Matthew's Director of Education and Formation, she brought Roxanny along to translate. As Roxanny predicted, Doug accepted Sandra's children without hesitation. Roxanny says, "She was in his office on Friday and by the following Tuesday, her kids were in school. He just thought about the kids. Just take care of the kids and deal with any other barriers later."

Kevin is now in 7th grade and Natalie is in 6th. Natalie, who's playing on the volleyball team, thinks the classes are definitely harder, but she likes her new school. She says, "This is the first school where I feel like I fit in and feel I have friends who know me. They're nice to me."

Sandra acknowledges she's spending more time at the table helping the kids with their homework. But she's happy with the change and looks forward to the day when all three children receive their college diplomas.

Roxanny's happy too. Nodding to Sandra, she says, "We still look at each other and laugh. We went to the same grade school and middle school....After all these



The Gonzalez Family

years losing contact, and now here, our children are in the same class. When you come to a new country, you feel so out of place. But now here we are.”

Joined the School & Parish

Evelyn Gonzalez is a single parent of three children. Jose is in 2nd grade, Lupita just started Kindergarten and Baby Moses is seven months old. Evelyn lives in Inver Grove Heights where she works as a Personal Care Assistant. She has one client that she works with and says it’s more like caring for a family member.

When it was time for Jose to go to Kindergarten, she enrolled him in a public school in South St. Paul, close to her home. But Jose was having problems and Evelyn wasn’t happy with how it was going.

She knew about St. Matthew’s School from her time as a foster child with a family on the West Side. Evelyn explains, “My foster mother brought me to religious education classes at St. Matthew’s and she always talked about what a great school it was. If I had stayed longer, she wanted to send me there too.” Evelyn never got to go but she never forgot about St. Matthew’s. She says it was always on her mind.

Evelyn was also concerned that her children get a religious education. “I go to church every Sunday and it made me think – they can’t teach this at public schools.” Evelyn realized she wanted her children to learn about their faith at school. “That pushed me to make a change.”

Not only has Evelyn enrolled her students at St. Matthew’s, she’s joined the parish as well. And she’s happy with her choice. She says her daughter loves kindergarten and, when talking about her son who was

struggling in school, she says, “**Just in this month alone, I’ve seen a big difference in his reading. He asks me, ‘Mom, am I going to go there next year?’ They think it’s great!**”

And From the East Side

Rosanna Cruz and her husband, Bob, live on St. Paul’s Eastside with their two children, Juliana, age 5 and Bobby who’s almost 3 years old. Rosanna works at United Hospital while her husband is employed by Xcel Energy.

Even though they live on the East Side, the Cruz’s both grew up on the West Side and have family and friends there now who help out with the children when needed. When the time came, they decided to send Juliana to school on the West Side of St. Paul and registered their daughter for kindergarten at Cherokee Heights Elementary. That is, until her family found out.

Rosanna, who attended public schools on the West Side when she was growing up, said her family told her, “Juliana needs to go to St. Matthew’s. Why don’t you sign her up?” Rosanna didn’t know about the tuition assistance at the time, “But my family told me, ‘they’ll help you out.’ That made me eager to find out more.”

Rosanna didn’t have much experience with Catholic schools but she’d heard great things about St. Matt’s from family members. She knew their kids loved it. She also knew one instance where someone had transferred their children from St. Matthew’s to a public school and wound up switching them back again. She says, “They’re happier now.”

Rosanna says the biggest reason they picked St. Matt’s is the small size of the school and its classes, “The class size is great. Everybody knows everyone by name. It’s not the same in the public school.”

She’s pleased with how her daughter is doing in Kindergarten and says, “**Juliana loves school! She’s only been in school a month and she knows all the kids in school up to 8th grade. It’s a great school.**”



The Cruz Family

Alumni & Friends Annual Report

\$120,000 Raised and Enrollment increased 30%

A great big "Thank You!" to the 210 individuals, couples and institutions listed below for your generous financial support. Your contributions for tuition assistance enabled St. Matthew's School to increase enrollment by over 30% - from 139 students last year to the present 183. A goal of \$150,000 has been set for this year (October 2008 – September 2009.) We also expect enrollment to increase to approximately 200 students which is estimated as a practical capacity for our nine classes. A&F asks you to consider a contribution now, before January 1st, in order to take advantage of a year-end tax deduction.

PILLAR \$15,000+

Roy & Joann Ferber 1959

PACESETTER \$10,000-\$14,999

Katherine B Anderson *foundation*
Hugh and Melissa Cullen 1973
Anonymous *former parent*
Jerry & Marilyn Sexton 1944

LEADER \$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous *business*
Andrew Boss *foundation*
Fred & Molly Commers *friend*
Bruce & Jean Johnson *friend*
gift to St. Matt's Child Care

EDUCATOR \$2,500-\$4,999

Joseph Cullen 1978
Geraldine LaDoucer 1941
Joseph M. Mansur 1961
Anonymous 1938

SUSTAINER \$1,000-\$2,499

Sue Ann Meisinger Brown 1957
Vivian Wiler Byers 1939
James T Kunz 1955
Monica Wildenauer Olsen 1944
Ellen Buckrey Parravano 1959
John & Mary Riehle 1957
Dick Votel 1954

BUILDER \$500-\$999

James Bohrer 1972
Denise Ferber Bohrer 1973
Raymond F Burrows *parishioner*
Elizabeth Richardson French 1961
Jean Froehle 1949
Janet & Richard Fundakowski *faculty*
Virginia Neff Hickey 1955
Janet B. Humphrey *friend*
Doug & Kristina Lieser *faculty*
Anonymous *member*
Eileen McMahan *member*

Harriet Campa Murphy 1946

Joe Nasseff 1960
Anonymous 1975
JoAnne Schaefer 1973
Thomas Smith 1972
Larry & Shirley Smith *parishioner*
Anonymous 1974

BENEFACTOR \$250-\$499

Peter J. Bruha 1950
Clement & Molly Commers *friend*
John Curran, MD 1949
Mark DeVecchio 1973
Janice Mosberger Finnegan 1964
AnnaMaria Hernandez *current parent*
John St. Martin 1936
Robert & Lois Germain Wallner 1939
Peter Willems 1943

PATRON \$100-\$249

Anonymous 1938
Anonymous 1967
Anonymous 1950
Patricia Cooper Blaskie 1964
Mary Ann Miller Bloch *high school*
Audrey Brucker 1952
Anonymous 1967
Nancy Riehle Burke 1959
Russell Chaput 1931
Florence Mahoney Clancy 1934
Ted Collins *friend*
Bonnie & Pat Conlan *parishioner*
Gerald Crane 1960
Timothy Dalzell 1970
Eugene Daugherty 1942
Wayne Dressler 1955
Anonymous 1952
Mary Schreiner Fitzharris 1960
Fr. Charles Froehle 1951
Sandra Cooper Gabbert 1958
Joyce Juenemann Gardner 1960
Amy Grayson *former parent*

Patrick Griffin 1947

Dennis Griffin 1962
John & Shirley Hager 1944
Janice McIntosh Hemming 1957
Robert Hinze 1961
Tom Kabesh 1960
Patricia Werden Karels 1954
Charles Kopp *friend*
Patrick Kunz 1960
Wally Kurtz 1938
Tom Landsberger 1952
George Lang 1956
Richard Littfin 1944
Donna Duffy McCarthy 1964
Jean Schoenberger McGroarty 1947
Judy Klotz Morhar 1957
Jane Chaput Nemitz 1958
Margo Earle O'Malley 1954
Thomas O'Neill 1958
Margarita Abel Probst 1964
Patricia Lotzer Reese 1960
Daniel Schadegg 1979
Marion Mueller Schaps 1936
Giles Schmid 1946
George Schmid 1955
Richard Schmidt 1936
Richard Schoenberger 1939
Steven & Clare Sexton *friend*
Eugene V Sitzmann 1936
Ann Quinlan Smith 1936
Greg & Sheryl Smith *friend*
John A Snyder 1952
Georgene M Schaps Sorenson 1960
Sheila Sexton Stai *friend*
Michael Vasterling 1968
Clare Vogel 1946
Jim Vogel 1956
Anonymous *parishioner*

SUPPORTER to \$99

Rita Wolf Adam 1944
Sheila Haas Anderson 1965

Stewart Arth 1957
 Joanne Posavad Asmus 1951
 Pat Ring Bade 1960
 Victoria Petschauer Baker 1968
 Eugene Befort 1957
 Doris Kammerer Bisciglia 1962
 Theresa Thurn Bock 1958
 Mary Lou Allie Bova 1944
 Bill & Corinne Heinrich Brengman 1947
 Frank Brewer 1954
 Dorothy Seidl Bruce 1936
 Marjorie Troje Brustad 1955
 Joseph Cacek, Sr 1936
 Laurice Casey Cameron 1936
 Ellen Shaughnessy Clifford 1960
 Joseph & Louise Connolly *friend*
 Robert Curry *grandparent*
 Kathleen Walsh Dittel 1949
 Tom & Sue Doyle *former parent*
 Thomas N Doyle 1975
 Paul Dressler 1963
 Geoffrey Edwards 1958
 Virginia Miller Englin 1947
 Mary Jane Ferber 1962
 Amy Firner 1986
 Mary Helen Williams Fischer 1936
 Helen Shimota Gross 1944
 Louis Haas 1946
 Robert & Dolores Otto Haltiner 1936
 Joanne Fischer Hartigan 1946
 Jack & Carol [Pelton] Heitzinger 1940
 Jean Haider Hills 1957
 Mary Ann Savard Hillyer 1958
 David Hottinger 1981
 Marlys Stokke James 1954
 Gerard and Leona Jenniges *parishioner*
 Bro Brad Jenniges, OSB 1976
 Susan Miller Jensen 1961
 Philip Just 1944
 Marcella Walker Kaehler 1969
 Cynthia Wessel Kaelber 1960
 Olivia Jogna Kafka 1939
 Anonymous *parishioner*
 Doug & Lynn Kennedy *parishioner*
 Emily Kessel 2001
 Diana Kessel 2004
 O William Klingner 1939
 Mary Ann Kosel 1960
 Robert & Lynn Krueger 1975
 Edith Minea Lamers 1943
 Bernie Lancette 1961
 Roger Lauen 1953
 Mary Leibl 1964
 Kathleen Ulrich Licha 1939

JoAnn Ketchmark Lundblad 1960
 Rita Rindfleish MacDonald 1949
 Wanda Savery Mahnke 1957
 Joan Meisinger Mahoney 1951
 Anonymous 1947
 David McDonald 1958
 Mary Marthaler McDonough 1948
 Mary Ann Schmid McMillan 1940
 Helen Lannon McNeill 1955
 Eugene Minea 1943
 James Monson 1944
 Patrick Mortinson 1935
 Sr. Lorraine Mosso, SSND 1940
 Samantha Napier 2006
 Barbara Neff 1954
 Nancy Buron Ottmann 1951
 Richard Patton 1983
 Michelle Beauvais Pederson 1958
 Rosemary Hurley Plante 1944
 Nancy Poechmann 1965
 Michael Poechmann 1969
 Rose Leitner Prudinski 1933
 Carol Nafus Redding 1962
 William Rindfleisch 1951

Dorothy P Rongitsch *parishioner*
 Mary Ann Stadt Roscoe 1961
 Susan Beran Ryan 1964
 Mary Lou Stelter Saari 1949
 Robert Schaefer 1936
 Paula Dalglish Schmid 1949
 Mary Jane Eret Schmitt 1938
 Mike Seubert 1955
 Mary Ann Krammer Sievers 1954
 Tony Sitzmann 1957
 Anonymous 1950
 Jeanette Jungbauer Slaughter 1950
 Patricia Plante Smith 1941
 Bob Stevens *high school*
 Robert Stoven 1960
 Elizabeth Blissenbach Stoven 1962
 Barbara Pirkel Tackaberry 1968
 Karen Schwartz &
 Douglas Thompson 1955
 Robert Tinucci 1944
 Dorothy Hanson Turcotte-Tait 1953
 Terrance Votel 1956
 Gerald A Walsh 1946
 Joan Kammerer Zwart 1960

School's Christmas Wish List

At whatever level you can give, your gift will be put to good use. The following is a short list of items that the school can use. If you would like to specify a particular item or category, please let us know.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| \$25 | New Books for the Library – We are constantly updating our collection. |
| \$25 | Classroom supplies – Anything a teacher might need in the classroom including chalk, Kleenex, markers, etc. |
| \$50 | Hot lunch for one student for one month - This fund helps students whose families didn't qualify for free lunch at the start of school, but whose financial situation worsened during the school year. |
| \$100 | Leveled Readers – These are important tools to promote success in literacy for students in K-2nd grades. |
| \$100 | Museum admissions for a Field Trip for one grade – Destinations may include the Science Museum, the History Center or the Children's Museum. |
| \$500 | Band Scholarship for Full Year – We have a waiting list of students who would like to participate but can't afford it. Includes instrument rental and weekly instruction. |
| \$1,000 | Peaceful Playgrounds Kit – This cost effective tool will allow us to redesign our playground into a colorful arrangement of games kids in all grades love to play. |

Jackie Gibis Breher Remembers

Jackie Gibis Breher has an encyclopedic memory for people she's met over her 83 years, particularly when it comes to people she knows from growing up on the West Side. She says between the Gibis and the Marthaler families, "We pretty much filled up West St. Paul." Jackie didn't go to St. Matthew's School (too far) but her family belonged to the parish and recently, she shared a few memories of what it was like back then.

Around 1885, Jackie's grandfather, John Gibis, came from Bavaria with his six sisters. He was in his early 20's when he arrived in Minnesota and just four years later, in 1889, he married Theresa Feucht at the brand new St. Matthew's Church.

Jackie's grandparents settled in West St. Paul about one block from what is now Signal Hills. They had a small farmstead, enough for a good size vegetable garden; but John worked for most of his life at the Hamm's Brewery.

John and Theresa had 10 children. All six of John's sisters married, settled within walking distance of their brother's home and each had about 10 children as well. They married into what became old West St. Paul families such as the Seidl's, the Hutterer's, the Meisinger's, the Graf's, the Meyers, the Zaspels and the Lerach's.

Her own father, William, attended St. Matthew's School. But it was a long walk and Jackie remembers him telling stories about getting into fights with kids from Garfield, the public school across from Riverview Library. William left school after 5th grade so he could help out at home. Jackie says the Gibis' weren't big on education. "The Meisinger's, they were different. They became lawyers and teachers, but not the rest of us."

In 1921, her father married Lillian Bousquet from the St. Francis DeSales parish in St. Paul.

They had two daughters and raised them in a home across the street from her grandparents. Jackie says, "Every Sunday, my father would take us to visit my grandparents. In summer he pulled us in a wagon and in winter, a sled." Jackie

recalls seeing the German newspaper *Der Wanderer* around the house and says her grandparents only spoke German, "I never heard my father speak German anywhere else. He used some German expressions, like 'dumb-head' but that was it."

Jackie doesn't know for sure how many first cousins she has on her father's side but guesses at least sixty (she has four on her mother's) and they were always getting together for family gatherings. Once a year, her grandfather would host a big yard party where he'd serve kegs of Hamm's beer. Jackie says, "Even the kids would drink it."

She knows they were members of St. Matthew's but they didn't go very often because they had no transportation. As she recalls, "I was 14 years old before we had a car." Later, when Jackie enrolled at the College of St. Catherine, all the incoming students were required to take a test to see what religion classes they needed, "I think I went into remedial religion taught that year by Fr. James Lavin from St. Thomas."

Jackie majored in English, Library Science & Education. She married Paul Breher one week after graduating in 1950 and like her own father did, she settled in West St. Paul, one block from her parents. "My heart is on the West Side. When you come from the West Side, it's a lifetime commitment. "



Jackie Gibis Breher's first husband died in 1989. She currently resides with her husband of 17 years, Bill Jackson.

When you come from the West Side, it's a lifetime commitment.

JACKIE GIBIS BREHER

“Memories Flooded Everyone” at the Class of '68 Reunion

By **Monica Weigenant Bahls '68**

What motivated me to begin organizing the event was attending the May 2008 All School invitation. Six of the classmates from 1968 showed up for this event and I started thinking — hey it would be 40 years since our graduation in 1968; what a great time to organize a gathering. So five of us embarked on obtaining classmates current mail and e-mail addresses to send an Evite for this event and went from there.

It was absolutely incredible seeing classmates and being able to re-connect. Having the event at the Social Hall downstairs to the church was great and being able to go into the gym to have a group picture taken was the absolute highlight to the evening. Memories simply flooded everyone as we walked into the gym.

Rita Amon Exley,
Diana Wallner
Daigle



Debbie Potzman Carlson,
Allison Boehmer Forester,
Cathy Diloia Sportelli,
Patti Achman Leseman,
Mary Beth Haas Cubus,
Barb Pirkl Tackaberry



TOP JoLynn Blaeser, Debbie
Potzman Carlson, Mary Beth
Haas Cubus

ABOVE Mike Schletty,
Tom Schwab, Jim Leahy



Peter Exley, Rita Amon Exley, Gina Palumbo
Quinn, David McDonald



Monica Weigenant
Bahls; Patti Achman
Leseman

TOP Joe Dwuznik,
Diane Duncanson,
Mike Vasterling

ABOVE Joan
Livingston Wigen,
Barb Schaefer
Carmouche, Sue
Pavlak, Margaret
Perron Deeb

6TH GRADE

Studying Environmental Science at Eagle Bluff

6th graders spent two days learning about Environmental Science at St. Matthew’s annual fieldtrip to Eagle Bluff near Lanesboro, MN. Eagle Bluff is an environmental learning center that provides experiential classes in an outdoor setting. Located along the pristine Root River, students got first-hand experience in activities meant to promote environmental awareness, while encouraging wise stewardship of our natural resources. Some activities included sampling river water to measure acidity and PH. At the Raptor Center, students dissected owl pellets to evaluate diet. Students also got to go canoeing and participate in the Ropes Course.



TOP 6th graders spend two days at Eagle Bluff.

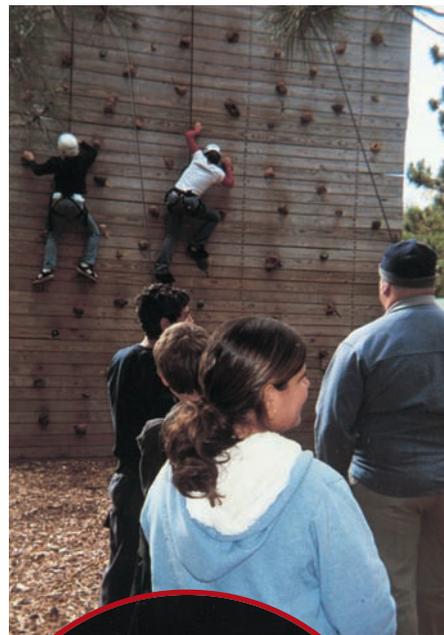
MIDDLE Students analyze water samples.

BOTTOM Student on rope course.

7TH GRADE

Developing Leadership and Teamwork Skills at Camp St. Croix

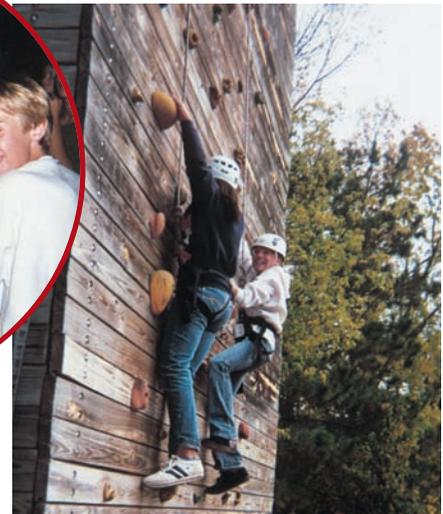
7th grade students spent three days at the YMCA’s Camp St. Croix near Hudson, WI, where they took part in the King Leadership Program. During the three-day session, students have to find ways to work as a team to overcome a wide range of challenges which can only be solved by effectively planning, communicating and executing a strategy as a group. Many of the challenges are physical and involve traversing obstacle courses with limited tools. The camp is a great way for students to develop positive leadership skills and discover how working together, people have the potential to accomplish great things.



Students have to work as a team to overcome physical obstacles.



7th graders enjoy fellowship during three day fieldtrip to Camp St. Croix.



From the Editor

Sharing Our Story About Fr. Steve

My husband and I first got to know Fr. Steve when he presided over our wedding in 1990. We were living in Chicago at the time and getting married in St. Paul. While I'm Catholic, my husband is Lutheran and his family was a bit nervous about our "mixed" marriage and about the ceremony, which was held at The College of St. Catherine's Chapel.

We both still recall the down to earth, easy going way Fr. Steve helped us and our families through the process. He made our experience less stressful and more spiritual through his handling of it.

When we returned to St. Paul 10 years later, we chose to join St. Matthew's parish — largely because of the great memories we had of working with Fr. Steve at our wedding. Our children now attend the school and St. Matthew's has become a major part of our life. And it started with our connection to Fr. Steve.

We're not unique. In his column, Fr. Steve talks about the thousands of opportunities he's had to enter

into the lives of individuals and families over his 40 years as a priest.

So I'd like to ask — how about you? Do you have a story to tell about Fr. Steve's influence in your life? If you do, we'd like to make it part of Fr. Steve's anniversary celebration. Send in your story, whether it's funny or sad, whether he made you angry or he made you think, and we'll include it as part of the occasion. Email your stories and remembrances to **AlumniNews@St.Matts.org** by November 30th.

On Sunday, December 7th, we will have an opportunity to celebrate Fr. Steve's 40 years as a priest. Information about the event is listed below. I hope you can come to the dinner and help us honor Fr. Steve's lifetime of service.

— Maggie Lee

**WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**

Email us your story
about Fr. Steve.

**AlumniNews@
St.Matts.org**

St. Matthew's Parish Invites You to Join Us

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 4:30 – 7:30 P.M.

To Celebrate Father Steve Adrian's 40th Anniversary as a Priest

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 4:30 – 5:15 p.m. | Reception with Cash Bar |
| 5:15 | Dinner is served |
| 6:45 | Program Honoring Steve
* Guests will have an opportunity to share stories or remembrances about Fr. Steve. |
| 7:30 | Conclusion |

At Fr. Steve's request, all proceeds from the dinner will go towards St. Matthew's School scholarships and tuition assistance. Tickets are available at varying costs – please purchase at the level you can.

\$40 Ticket celebrates Fr. Steve's 40 years in the priesthood

\$66 Ticket celebrates Fr. Steve's 66 years of life.

\$122 Ticket celebrates St. Matthew's 122 years as a parish.

\$1,968 Ticket celebrates the year Fr. Steve was ordained.

\$2,008 Ticket celebrates the year of Fr. Steve's 40th anniversary

\$30 Ticket is for seniors, youth and those on fixed incomes and celebrates Fr. Steve's 30 years at St. Matthew's

Each mass that weekend will include a prayer and blessing of Fr. Steve by parishioners, followed by a simple reception in the Social Hall.



**PARISH COMMUNITY OF
SAINT MATTHEW**
490 Hall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55107

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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

MEN'S CLUB WINE TASTING — November 14 at 7 p.m.

Over 70 different wines will be available to sample plus select cheeses and a tasty chocolate fountain. Admission is \$15 and tickets can be purchased at the door of the Social Hall. Guests can order wine at discounted prices through Nowak Liquors.

MASS FOR THANKSGIVING DAY — November 27, 9 a.m.

FRUIT BASKET SALES — December 6 & 7, December 13 & 14

Order after mass on both weekends to get baskets by Christmas.

DINNER CELEBRATING FR. STEVE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY AS A PRIEST — December 7, 4:30 – 7:30p.m.

For more information see pg. 11.

ROSARY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE — December 8 & 9

Home baked items will be available in the Social Hall on Saturday from 2–6 p.m. and Sunday from 9–12 p.m.

MEN'S CLUB CHRISTMAS AUCTION — December 10 at 7 p.m.

Get a good deal on items large and small. Money raised supports the Retirement Fund for the School Sisters of Notre Dame and Holiday Giving for needy families.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA — December 9, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The boy scouts will be serving an all you can eat Pancake Breakfast. After breakfast, kids can get their picture taken with Santa.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT — December 11, 7:00 p.m.

Always a fun night - the Concert is held in the church where students in K-5th grades sing songs and perform a Christmas pageant.

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE [NON-SACRAMENTAL] — December 16, at 6:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE —

December 24 4:00 p.m.

December 25 Midnight (12:00 a.m.) & 10:00 a.m.