



THE GOOD NEWS

November/December 2009
Issue 15

FROM ST. MATTHEW

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

Making the Goals: \$150,000 and 50 More Students

St. Matthew's is one of a few Catholic schools in the Archdiocese to actually be expanding its enrollment. This year, the school has 194 kids attending. The school's success is directly related to the success of Alumni & Friends (A&F) efforts to raise money for scholarships. As St. Matthew's principal, Doug Lieser, said, "If you think you can't afford our school — think again. Alumni & Friends of St. Matthew's is raising money so any family who wants an education from St. Matt's can get it." That two fold strategy — raising money for scholarships to raise enrollment — has been a big success.

But when the A&F committee first began organizing in 2007, it wasn't so obvious. Fr. Steve recalls, "At the time, there'd been a steady decline in enrollment down to 139 students. We were losing 5,8,10 kids per year."

Joe Cullen ('78) is a management consultant for executives specializing in transformational initiatives. He says, "When we first got together there were a lot of great ideas around the general objectives of raising money and increasing enrollment, but we didn't have a clear picture of what success would look like. The consensus was that the committee would perform better if we had an objective target."

The enrollment goal of 50 new students was based on capacity — how many more students could be added without significantly increasing costs. But the financial goal was more like a guess. Joe says, "At the time, I didn't know if \$150,000 for the first year was too low or too high."

Fr. Steve thought both goals would be a challenge, "I realized that was a huge

mountain to climb. But we needed something daring to get people enthused about. But there was a risk. You can fall flat on your face."

Through the concerted effort of the committee, the generous support of donors, and the consistent work by everyone in the St. Matt's community to spread the word about scholarships, A&F saw big results within the first year. They raised \$120,000 and enrollment increased 30%. In its second year, despite being in the worst recession since WWII, St. Matthew's enrollment continued to increase and A&F raised \$150,000.

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Four sets of identical twins have enrolled in St. Matt's in the last two years. For more about new school families, see pg.4-5.



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

Reaching Our Goal, continued from page 1

Now the question is can that success be sustained?

Fr. Steve and Joe both agree that it can. Joe says, "As we enlist more people, it's sustainable plus some... there an opportunity to raise the bar a little bit."

Fr. Steve agrees, "If we show that we're able to give opportunities kids otherwise wouldn't have, if we show the achievement of our graduates, we'll continue to inspire donors."

Joe is a good example of Fr. Steve's point. While he grew up in St. Matthew's parish, he now lives in Eagan with his wife and three young children. But staying connected to St. Matthew's is very important to him. He explains, "I grew up in that community. There were life-changing seeds St. Matt's planted in me, even though I didn't understand them at the time... and if there's a need there, that's where I'm going to give. I want to pass forward the same opportunities that I was given."

Thanks to Joe and to hundreds of others who feel the same. You're making a real difference in your old neighborhood.

Dear Saint Matthew Alums and Friends:

This issue contains the annual report and celebrates you, our donors of the past year.

Saint Matthew's School continues to grow; an increase of enrollment of 10% in the last four months; and increase in enrollment of 40% in the last 16 months.

24% of a \$766,000 annual operating budget for Saint Matthew's School comes from tuition — \$190,000. The other 76% of the education cost is borne by the parish, the Archdiocese, gifts from the Catholic Community Foundation, FOCUS, Kids First, education endowments, Partners in Education with the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, various foundations and you — the Alums and Friends of Saint Matthew's School.

Because of your generous gifts of more than \$150,000 this past year dozens of neighborhood families have been able to realize their dream — an education of academic quality in a Catholic school and within a safe environment for their student(s).

The majority of children we educate are children of color. 59% of our students qualify for federal assistance in free and reduced lunch. 47% come from single parent families.

Saint Matthew's graduates go on to local Catholic, Lutheran and public high schools. More than 90% of our graduates graduate from high school and the majority of them go on to a four year college or a community college. Many of these students are the first members of their family to receive a college education. I find this track record remarkable and a strong testimony to the truth that at Saint Matthew's we are in the business of changing and saving lives.

It is because of you and others who make an investment in the education of young people that this success story is possible.

I appeal to you. I encourage you. As we enter into the Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons, as we give thanks for all the gifts we have received, as we count our blessings, as you consider your year end giving, please consider an investment in the future, an investment in the education of a student — a gift to Alums and Friends of Saint Matthew's School

God bless you. You are wonderful!

Stephen Adrian
Pastor



Fr. Steve with the 1st grade class. This year there was a waiting list for both kindergarten and 1st grade. St. Matt's retention rate is 95%.

Meet Tim Nowak – Mr. Reliable

When talking about Tim Nowak, Fr. Steve says, “I think Tim is the most recognizable person at Sunday mass. Everybody knows who he is because he’s been sitting behind that counter for over 15 years.”

Since 1994, after every weekend mass, Tim Nowak can be found sitting at a table in the southeast corner of church selling SCRIP (see sidebar.) He says the program is a way for participants to contribute to St. Matt’s at no cost to themselves. He calls it free money and he’s always coming up with ideas to get some for the school.

His 15 year commitment to selling SCRIP is just one of the ways he’s earned his title. He’s also been an active member of the Men’s Club for over 20 years. His friend and fellow member, Dean Steinbrenner, says, “Tim is one of those guys who gets it done. There’s a small group of those guys and he’s one of them. Anytime we have something going, he’s right in there.”

That includes the Lenten Fish Fries, the Chili Feed, the Big Game Party, social events likes trips to the Saints baseball game, or fundraisers he started himself years ago such as the Meat Raffles at Gallagher’s and the annual Wine Tasting Party.

Tim grew up on the West Side but he’s a graduate of St. Michael’s School where his family also attended church. His parents owned a home on Concord on the side of the hill (it was 26 steps up to the house, he recalls.) Of his four siblings, Bob currently lives on the

West Side and Jeannie lives in Blaine; David and Jerry, both lifelong West Siders, died in 1990 and 1991.

Tim served four years in the Air Force where he learned about computers. After that, he took a job with Unisys (formerly Sperry Univac) and has worked there for 37 years, first as a computer operator and later as a financial analyst.

Tim married Elizabeth (Zeug) in 1969. Together they have four children who all graduated from St. Matt’s. This year their granddaughter, Madison, is a member of the Kindergarten class.

In addition to his job at Unisys, in 1979, Tim and his brother David opened Nowak’s Liquor on Robert St. He worked 80 hour weeks for most of the 22 years he owned the business. Tim sold the store in 2002.

In addition to his tremendous work ethic, everyone agrees that Tim is a low key guy who never loses his cool and can always be counted on to get things done.

Dean says, “He can take something and make it successful. He doesn’t just talk — he gets it done. You know if you leave it in Tim’s hands, it’s going to turn out good.”

Fr. Steve adds, “He’s a very humble, down to earth, no pretense guy. Someone lots of people are comfortable with. That’s part of his charm — Tim is an extraordinary, ordinary guy.”

**For 15 years Tim Nowak
has been selling SCRIP
after every weekend mass.**

What’s SCRIP? A Great Idea for Christmas!

Over 500 merchants participate including grocery stores, gas stations, department stores, restaurants and more — popular places where you already shop. To participate, just buy a SCRIP card from Tim in advance and use the card when you pay. It costs you nothing extra but 3-4 % of your purchase will be donated to St. Matthew’s School.

Every month Tim sends a check for the SCRIP rebate to St. Matthew’s school. Tim says about 75-100 families participate now but that number could easily be doubled.

For more information about how SCRIP works, check out their website at scrip.com, call the school office or email Tim (timothy.nowak@usfamily.net) for a list of vendors. You can also stop by after mass and ask Mr. Reliable in person. You know he’ll be there.



Introducing Three New School Families

These families explain the very different paths that led them to enroll their children and grandchildren at St. Matthew's this year. Here are their stories.

The Vazquez Family

Sophia Vazquez saw the writing on the wall last winter when Trinity Elementary School was grappling with declining enrollment. She was especially concerned because her son, Miguel, was in the 3rd grade at Trinity and had already dealt with many painful changes in his young life.

Sophia, who grew up on the West Side, married Miguel's father in 1999 and Miguel was born a year later. When her son was just two years old, his father was deported to Mexico and banned from returning to the U.S. When it became clear that her husband couldn't come back, Sophia and her son moved to Mexico for three years. While she loved having the family together, the economy there was so bad, that she made the painful decision to return with her son to St. Paul, where she had a large extended family she could count on for help.

But the experience has made Sophia cautious about any further disruptions to her son's life. She had chosen Trinity because Miguel had attended preschool there and she thought it would provide some continuity. News that Trinity would close and that he'd have to change schools after just one year was particularly unwelcome.

Sophia's grandmother, Lenore Hiland, had been a lifelong parishioner at St. Matthew's and the family connection made Sophia open to looking at the school. Sophia visited during a summer Open House and said the experience was overwhelming, "The staff that welcomed us — they greeted you as if they've known you for years!" The tour that followed helped. "Walking through the school, I saw the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and saw how multi-cultural the school is." The scholarship fund cemented the deal, "Without the scholarship, we wouldn't have been able to do it."

Miguel is now a member of St. Matthew's 4th grade class, Cub Scout Troop 107 and the family has joined the parish. She feels good about the transition. Sophia says, "My son's made friends and I have too." Her plans for her son are simple, "I want to keep a lot of care and love around him."

The Obregon Family

Debbie and Jeffrey Obregon live on the East Side and have no prior connection to St. Matthew's. The school was just one of many they tried to learn about when looking for a new place for their twin sons, Emilio & Nazario. At the time, the boys were third graders at a magnate school that Debbie felt wasn't meeting their needs. Debbie says, "They tested very high on the standardized tests — several points above the school average. I just saw a lot of problems at the school."

Debbie is the mother of a large family who manages to stay in tune with all her children's needs. The Obregon's have nine kids, ranging in age from 3 to 29 years old. Their family consists of a combination of children born to them, children they've adopted and foster kids. It wasn't something they'd planned on. Debbie explains, "A girl we knew as a child got herself messed up with drugs and homelessness. She had two children and when the counselor asked her, is there anybody you trust enough to take care of your kids, she named us. We hadn't seen her in a long time but she gave us a call and we said, 'yes.'" The Obregon's got an emergency relative's license initially, but eventually



The Vazquez family together in Mexico. Sophia brought Miguel to visit his father for one month last summer.



Jeffery Obregon with twin sons Emilio and Nazario.

switched to a permanent license. "We've been foster parents for 12 years now," Debbie says.

Debbie says they checked out a lot of different schools for the twins, both public and Catholic, and, "St. Matt's was the one that really jumped out. Everybody we met was so nice, so friendly. We talked to Kathy Goldenstein and she said, 'why don't you come and see for yourself?' She gave us a private tour and we met the principal."

Debbie says the boys love their teacher, "They think she's pretty amazing." And she's satisfied that the twins are being challenged, "The boys are working hard but they're liking it." The family plans to join the parish and she'd like the boys to join the children's choir, as she says, "They both love music."

Having both boys in the same class has been a new experience, "In the past we've tried to split them up," she explains, "because they like each other better than anyone else in the whole world." They especially like to wrestle with each other but she hasn't heard any complaints from the teacher so far, "So that's good, right?"

The Seidl Family

Tom Seidl's family has deep roots in St. Matthew's parish. His father, Robert Seidl graduated from St. Matthew's School as did Tom ('62), his brother and two sisters. His parents started out on the lower West Side but eventually bought a house on Delaware Avenue near Cherokee Park. Tom, who's now retired, raised his own family in the house he grew up in and joined St. Joseph's Parish, which is closer to home.



Tom Seidl ('62) with grandsons Brady, Tristan and Blake (left to right.)

Last summer, events unfolded that brought him back to his roots at St. Matt's. In July, Tom and his wife, Gail, became the guardians of their three grandchildren. One of their first challenges was getting the boys enrolled in school.

They started out looking at public schools. Tom says, "All three boys would have been at different schools, riding different buses. Total chaos!" His sister said he ought to give St. Matt's a look, "Once we decided to consider St. Matt's, it was the clear choice."

Blake is now in 4th grade, Brady is in 3rd grade and Tristan is in Kindergarten. Tom says, "The 4th grader has been in three different schools and both he and his brother say that St. Matt's is the best school they've attended. I thought we might have some issues with the kindergartner, but he's very happy too."

Tom observes that his routine has changed from what it used to be, "I send the boys off to school and then I set things in order again to be ready for when they get back home. It's going fine. It's not what I anticipated for my retirement," he adds with a laugh.

Neither was the added expense of tuition, "Sending three boys to private school wasn't what we factored into our budgeting for retirement." He says they couldn't have afforded the tuition without the scholarship assistance. "The parish was very helpful with that."

Tom says the family plans to rejoin St. Matthew's Parish now that the boys are attending the school. Looking ahead, he expects his grandsons will stay with them for the long-term. And as long as they do, he plans to keep them at St. Matt's.

Alumni & Friends Annual Report

\$150,000 Raised and Enrollment Nears 200

Thank you all! It required donations from nearly 600 individuals, couples and institutions to reach our goal of \$150,000 for tuition assistance. The financial giving categories on these first two pages list 265 donors. This number is up from 210 donors in the same categories a year ago when A & F raised \$120,000. What really helped to reach the larger goal this year were the Tuition Assistance donations from Fr. Steve's 40th Anniversary celebration last December (contributors for the event will be listed in the next issue), and the memorial gifts from several funerals (see pg. 8). An increased goal of \$175,000 for tuition assistance has been set for this year (October 2009-September 2010). A & F reminds you to consider a donation now before January 1st in order to take advantage of a year-end tax deduction.

PILLAR – \$15,000+

Jerry & Marilyn Sexton, 1944

PACESETTER — \$10,000-\$14,999

Roy Ferber, 1959

Anonymous, former parent

LEADER — \$5,000-\$9,999

Boss Foundation, foundation

William & Bonita Frels, friend

Bruce and Jean Johnson, CC grant
gift for Child Care Center

Jerome Weigenant, 1941

EDUCATOR — \$2,500-\$4,999

Sue Ann Meisinger Brown, 1957

Vivian Wiler Byers, 1939

Joe Cullen, 1978

Anchor Bank, business

Paul Haggerty, friend

Gerri LaDoucer, 1941

Nadine Barthol & Louie Yzermans, 1937

SUSTAINER — \$1,000-\$2,499

Chuck Bohrer, 1970

Bradshaw Funeral Home, business

James Kunz, 1955

Bill & Diana Makens, friend

Joe Mansur, 1961

Mary & John Riehle, 1957

Anonymous, parishoner

BUILDER — \$500-\$999

Fred & Molly Commers, friend

Elizabeth Richardson French, 1961

Jean Froehle, 1949

Mike Kosel, 1957

Krissy & Doug Lieser, school faculty

Donna Duffy McCarthy, 1964

Andrea & Larry McGough, foundation

George Schmid, 1955

Giles Schmid, 1946

Clare Vogel, 1946

Dick Votel, 1954

BENEFACTOR — \$250-\$499

Joe & Suzanne Ahern, 1954

Mary Blaeser Burke, 1951

Clem & Molly Commers, friend

John Curran, 1949

James Curran, 1945

Anonymous, 1973

Lawrence & Carol Crisman

Engelmann, 1952

John & Jan Mosberger Finnegan, 1964

Rich & Janet Fundakowski, school faculty

Jackie Breher & Bill Jackson, friend

Jim Korman, 1955

Mary Ann Kosel, 1960

Joe Nasseff, 1960

Thomas O'Neill, 1958

Dorothy & John Scanlan,

committee member

John Snyder, 1952

Janice Cooper Spear, 1967

Russ Sudeith, 1954

Anita Campa Sweeney, 1944

Robert Verstraete, 1967

Terry Votel, 1956

Rev. Richard Wolter, former
associate pastor

PATRON — \$100-\$249

Joanne Posavad Asmus, 1951

Robert Bache, 1953

Monica Bahls, 1968

Jeffrey Barthe, 1971

Bob Bejblik, 1967

George Beran, 1953

Patricia Cooper Blaskie, 1964

Mary Miller Bloch, 1974

Patricia Flis Bloomquist, 1957

Kenneth Boehmer, 1955

Mary Sue Hopkins Brass, 1946

Jim Brewer, 1953

Audrey Brucker, 1952

Nancy Brunzel, 1967

Nancy Burke, 1959

Laurice Casey Cameron, 1938

Florence Mahoney Clancy, 1934

Marie Conlin, friend

Gerald Crane, 1960

John Curran MD, 1949

Robert Curry, grandparent

Tim Dalzell, 1970

Gene Daugherty, 1942

Roberta Seidl Delmont, 1957

Sue and Tom Doyle, parent of
former students

Wayne Dressler, 1955

Mary Jane Ferber, 1962

Rosemary Giefer Fischer, 1950

Mary Schreiner Fitzharris, 1960

Sandra Cooper Gabbert, 1958

Christa & Steven Gangl, friend

Casa Guadalupan, friend

James Guldán, 1946

Joyce & William Herzog, friend

Virginia Neff Hickey, 1955

John Hinding, 1958

David & Mary Kaul- Hottinger, 1981

Janet Humphrey, friend

Bradley Jenniges, 1976

Susan Miller Jensen, 1961

Marlyn Dressler Joyce, 1949

Philip Just, 1944

Tom Kabesh, 1960

Carol Pagel Keller, 1954
 Barb Lotzer Kieffer, 1964
 Richard Kouri, *friend*
 Patrick Kunz, 1960
 Tom Landsberger, 1952
 Jack Lannon, 1949
 Pat Achman Leseman, 1968
 Jo Ann Ketchmark Lundblad, 1960
 Clement Maranda, 1945
 Don Marthaler, 1955
 Eileen McMahon, *committee member*
 Carol Bruce Monson, 1959
 William Mosso, 1942
 Patricia Lannon Noble, 1944
 Jane O'Donnell O'Brien, *parent of former students*
 Margo Earle O'Malley, 1954
 Mary Ann Lancette Palumbo, 1964
 Ellen Buckrey Parravano, 1959
 Allen Rasmussen, 1959
 Martha Riehle, 1964
 Jeanine Karels Riley, 1977
 Harvey Rockwood, 1961
 Daniel Schadegg, 1979
 Joe Schaefer, 1964
 Linda Haas Schaefer, 1965
 Richard Schmidt, 1936
 Michael Schneider, 1955
 Richard Schoenberger, 1939
 Corinne Gangl Schuster, 1973
 John & Mary Bohrer Seidl, 1959
 Steve & Clare Sexton, *friend*
 Tim and LouAnne Sexton, *friend*
 Helen Ketchmark Sigmeth, 1960
 Linda Egner Sill, 1964
 Tony Sitzmann, 1957
 Georgene Schaps Sorenson, 1960
 Sheila Sexton Stai, *parishioner*
 John T StMartin, 1936
 Mary Pat Topritzhofer, 1975
 Dwaine Troje, 1955
 Charleen Stefaniak Vitelli, 1956
 Allen Volkenant, *friend*
 Peter Willems, 1943
 Marlene Hudalla Yarusso, 1948

SUPPORTER — to \$99

Rita Wolf Adam, 1944
 Steve Adrian, *committee member*
 Joe Albert, 1944
 Yvonne Allie, 1954
 Anonymous
 Stewart Arth, 1957
 Vicki Petschauer Baker, 1968
 Charles & Loretta Bastien, 1938
 Eugene Befort, 1957

Edward Benoe, 1962
 Kathy Robinette Benoe, 1961
 Kathleen Yanish Bidwell, 1950
 Doris Bisciglia, 1962
 Donald & Patricia Blaskowski, *friend*
 Mary Lou Allie Bova, 1944
 Marjorie Bandholz Boyd, 1964
 Corinne Heinrich Brengman, 1947
 Stephen Brewer, 1959
 Frank Brewer, 1955
 Dorothy Seidl Bruce, 1936
 Richard Bruce, 1961
 Theresa Blaeser Carufel, 1955
 Joan & Andy Chandler, *school volunteer*
 Joann Rindfleisch Clemens, 1945
 Heatheranne Brittan Dalton, 1968
 Craig David, 1966
 Anne Street & David Dierenfield, *parishioner*
 Kathleen Walsh Dittel, 1949
 Paul Dressler, 1963
 Joanne Blaeser Dufour, 1957
 Sandra Egginger, 1954
 Colleen St Martin Erickson, 1949
 Mary Helen Fischer, 1936
 Jean Tanzer Gennaro, 1949
 John George, 1959
 Kathleen Ferber Gobeli, 1966
 Joanne Fischer Hartigan, 1946
 Jack & Carol Pelton Heitzinger, 1940
 Janice McIntosh Hemming, 1957
 Robert Hinze, 1961
 Patricia Casey Holmes, 1950

Marcy Walker Kaehler, 1969
 Patricia Werden Karels, 1954
 Mary Zoe Klein, *friend*
 O William Klingner, 1939
 Charles & Loretta Kopp, *friend*
 Marjorie O'Day Koska, 1952
 Jeanne Merry Lacy, 1952
 Bernie Lancette, 1961
 Roger Lauen, 1953
 Margaret Lewandowski, 1955
 Mary Liebl, 1964
 Stella Lundquist, 1943
 Wanda Savery Mahnke, 1957
 Nancy White Maloney, 1949
 Agnes Stelter McCluney, 1945
 Mary Ann Schmid McMillan, 1940
 Helen Lannon McNeill, 1955
 Douglas Moe, 1955
 Jim Monson, 1944
 Lawrence [Isaac] Monsour, 1955
 Judy Klotz Morhar, 1957
 Patrick Mortinson, 1935
 Peirine Moy, *friend*
 Samantha Napier, 2006
 Barbara Neff, 1954
 Sharon Nafus Nelson, 1959
 Arnold & Judy Ness, *friend*
 Patricia Marquardt Norquist, 1982
 Mary K Orme, *friend*
 Anne M Ottmann, 1951
 Geraldine Johnson Padellford, 1969
 Jim Pagel, 1955

continued



**Brian Osborne
 Receives Award from
 St. Paul Police**

St. Matthew's Alumni and Assistant Chief of Police Tom Smith ('72) gives Brian Osborne an award. Brian helped identify a suspect which led to the man's subsequent arrest and conviction for assaulting a teenager. Brian attended St. Matt's through 6th grade and has 2 daughters there now. In addition to his job at CP Railroad, Brian provides security at St. Matthew's for Loaves and Fishes, is a member of the Men's Club and frequently volunteers for the school.

Rosemary Hurley Plante, 1944
 Dr. Julian Plante, *friend*
 Nancy Poechmann, 1965
 Mike Poechmann, 1969

SUPPORTER — to \$99, continued

Margarita Abel Probst, 1964
 Jane Ringold Prow, 1964
 Ardella Andress Prudenske, 1945
 Rose Leitner Prudinski, 1933
 Anne Maloney Radmer, 1976
 Albert Rindfleisch, 1942
 William Rindfleisch, 1951
 Julie Fretschel Rollheiser, 1966
 Dorothy Rongitsch, 1934
 Mary Ann Stadt Roscoe, 1961
 Anonymous
 Susan Beran Ryan, 1964

Marion Mueller Schaps, 1940
 Chris Schletty, 1960
 Paul Schmid, 1951
 Paula Dalglish Schmid, 1949
 Thomas Schmidt, 1966
 Beatrice Martineau Schueller, 1944
 Kathleen Daugherty Schulte, 1938
 Mike Seubert, 1955
 Margaret Gaughan Sevlie, 1940
 Joan Littfin Shields, 1959
 Robert E Smith, 1959
 Patricia Plante Smith, 1941
 Patti Bandholz Standing, 1959
 Anthony Stelter, 1951
 Louise Blissenbach Stemp, 1964
 Bob Stevens, 1950
 Florence Henly Stifter, 1945
 Gerald Swanberg, *friend*

Donald Taube, 1961
 Anonymous, 1938
 Eugene Tinucci, 1946
 Robert Tinucci, 1944
 Richard & Mary Topritzhofer, *friend*
 Dorothy Hanson Turcotte-Tait, 1953
 Omar Valencia, 1977
 Anonymous, 1968
 A Thomas Vogel, 1953
 James Vogel, 1956
 Mary Ann Kolles Vogel, 1955
 Robert & Lois Germain Wallner, 1939
 Gerald Walsh, 1946
 Marian Wolters, 1951
 Anna Wojnar Yanish, 1959
 Peter Yanish, 1958

Remembering Loved Ones with the Gift of Education

Gifts to A&F were made on behalf of the following people who died this year. In each instance, the families gave memorial contributions that are part of the scholarship fund and helped us reach our goal. We'd like to recognize each of the individuals who have been remembered and thank their families for supporting the ongoing effort to provide a high quality, Catholic education to families who could not otherwise afford it.



Jean Smith



George Miller



Thomas Epperly



Joe Marthaler



Russell Chaput



Ann Adrian

Gifts given in memory of Ann Adrian

Mary Ann Adrian,
 Maureen & Greg Adrian,
 Susan & Edward Adrian,
 Beverly & Ervin Barrett,
 Helen & John Barrett,
 Doris & Dave Bisciglia,
 Corinne & Bill Brengman
 Judy & Ralph Brown
 Sara & Ross Bullard
 Sherry Charboneau
 Caroline & Jim Chinquist

Marie Conlin
 Carol Creamer
 Judy & Bob DeNardo
 St Matt's Faculty
 Janice & John Finnegan
 Della & Joe Gangl
 Donis Giefer
 Esther & Don Giesel
 Kathryn & Michael Hagerty
 Leona & Gerard Jenniges
 Anita Marie Jeziah
 Ann & Michael Jorgensen
 Debra Kammerer

Diane Kammerer
 Kim Karas
 Rose Karas
 Eileen McMahon &
 Steve Karbon
 Pat & Ken Kasheimer
 Alice Kisch
 Ginny & Bill Klingner
 Mary Ann Kosel
 Sister Mary Arthur Kunze
 SSND
 Maxine & Tobias Letourneau
 Donna & Robert Little

GIFTS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF THE FOLLOWING:

Roman Adam
Edward & Catherine Ahern
Hildegarde Armstrong
Lilian Baetz
Joe & Catherine Blaeser
Rev. Edmund Clemens
Family Conlin
Josephine Cooper
Viola Doffing
Brian Dufour
John Egginger
Sister Mary Fabiola SSND
Cynthia Michaelson Garcia
Gerald Giefer
Erlinda Campa Gustafson

Virginia Schaefer Harder
Gene Hurley '47
Charlotte Campa Josephson
Joe Marthaler
William McMonigal
George P Miller
Raymond R Mosberger
Harriet Campa Murphy
Lil & Jerry Posavad
Lillian Posavad
Bonnie Rasmussen
Bonnie Thelen Rasmussen
Nellie & John Schmid
John & Nell Schmid
Saint Matthew School
Sr. Loretta Simon SSND
Jeanette Jungbauer Slaughter

Jean Smith
Mark & Margaret Snyder
Agnes Stefaniak
John Sweeney
Bernice [Bird] Taube
Pat & Hank Votel
Louie Yzermans

GIFTS GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

Father Steve Adrian, *for Catholic Schools Week*
Ann & Gene Peltier, *for 60th Wedding Anniversary*
Joyce Poechmann
Saint Matthew School
Jerry Sexton
Lynn Volkenant

Marge Lorch
Tom & Nancy Maloney
Barbara & Thomas McCarter
Josie & Stephen Mike
Joanne Miller
Mary Moha
Karol & Richard Morton
Carol & John Murphy
Anne & Henry Pabst
Pat & Ed Pendleton
Madeline Perron
Sheila & Joseph Peschges
Larry & Susan Poppler
Ann Reidell
Sister Jonelle Rein SSND
Natalie & Tim Rice
Hope Savard
Bernice & Don Shipley
Willard & Eleanor Sondag
Catherine Steffel
Jackie & Dick Steinhoff
Irene & George Sticha
D'Ann Marie Topoluk
Sally & Bill Umphress
Dorothy Williams



Tony Palmer

Gifts given in memory of Tony Palmer

Bev & Jim Adams
Mary Antol
Christine & John Berger
Doris & David Bisciglia
Susan & Terry Bohle
Anne Briggs
Philip Briggs
Judy & Ralph Brown
Cecelia & Charles Burbach
Phyllis & Richard Cacciatore
Donna Catlin
Mary Ann & James Ciliberti
Helen & Robert Class
Kathleen & Thomas Colaizy
Pat & Keith Dahlman
Anthony DeAngelis
Alice DeBlaw

Judy & Bob DeNardo
Patricia Dierberger
Mary & Jim Dietz
Virginia Eker
Margaret & Thomas Fahey
Rebecca Fowler
Margaret & Anthony Galvin
Marian & Charles Galvin
Joseph and Judith Gendron
Donis Giefer
Maureen Gitlin
Leo Goeser
Bill and Mary Gorham
Mary & Joseph Grochala
Tom & Dottie Grochala
Wendy & Jeffrey Guenther
Becky Montgomery & David Haley
Mary Ann & Richard Hawkins
Barbara & William Heck
Bart & Dale Hedges
Cheryl & Jeff Herryty
Rosanne & David Hull
Margaret & Bill Hunt
Sister Joanna Illg SSND
Lucy & Jeff Johnson
Diane Kammerer
Paul & Angie Karel
Mary & Edward Kelly
Sofia & Francis Kock

Mary & John LaBonia
Margaret Lavigne
Esther & Pete Leo
Donna Jo Leto
Joyce Lucking
Stella Lundquist
Renee Malloy
Mary & William Martin
Aloysius/Alice/Ava Mayers
Patricia McCormick
Rita & John McCarthy
Alice Meyer
John Morson
Rosemary Mossberg
Barbara & James Mulrooney
Charlotte & Angelo Palmer
Joann & Joseph Palmer
Dorothy & Walter Petroski
Mary & Lloyd Reid
Beverly Renken
Tom Ridley
Rita Ryan
Hope & Joe Savard
Richard & Rossy Shaller
Alice Sheeler
Carol Sheppard
Larry & Shirley Smith
Marjorie Sullivan
Shirley Willenbring
Mary Jane Zaccone

Teacher Profiles

Presenting St. Matthew's Middle School Teachers

Anthony Minus – Science teacher

Anthony Minus joined St. Matt's Middle School faculty this year but he's been a familiar presence in both the school and church for years. He was 17 when he first attended mass at St. Matthew's but he still remembers the experience, "I thought it was pretty cool. The priest didn't use a lectionary, didn't use a book for any of the prayers — it got me engaged in the mass." Later, he became more involved by signing up as a lector and joining the choir and Men's Club.

After college, Anthony got his teaching experience in the classroom

working as a full-time sub for four years, mostly at St. Matt's, St. Joe's and Hope Academy. In 2008, he was hired at Humboldt High School to work with students with learning challenges. He says it was humbling, "At Humboldt, you have kids who are homeless, living in shelters, with no real guardians."

Budget cuts eliminated Anthony's job last summer, but he's now in his 3rd year as football coach at Humboldt where he's teaching his players the importance of the 3C's — Classroom, Community and Competition. His mentorship of the team was recognized last year when Anthony and his players received an Emerging Leaders Award from an association of faith institutions from the West Side and West St. Paul.

Anthony teaches middle school science and his approach is hands-on. Today his 8th grade students are showing up with roller coasters they've built to demonstrate different types of energy, such as kinetic and potential. "Kids are tinkerers," he says, "They have the creativity to explain themselves within the standards provided."

Anthony incorporates the 3C's at St. Matt's as well. "The classroom is important. A lot of these kids will go to private schools where their academics will be

scrutinized. Community — all kids are encouraged to participate. And competition, it doesn't have to be athletic. With the roller coaster, students are challenging one another to see whose designs have flaws and whose works. It creates a unique class dynamic."

Bridget Kramer – Language arts teacher

Although this is only her fourth year teaching, Bridget Kramer has already won two teaching awards. In her very first year, she won the Rookie of the Year Honorable Mention at her school district in Phoenix, AZ. In Bridget's second year, her school named her Teacher of the Year.

Last summer, Bridget moved back home to Minnesota because, she says, "I loved my job but I missed friends and family. And I missed the four seasons."

Now Bridget is teaching reading and writing, her favorite subjects, to middle school students at St. Matt's. Her goal is to promote both. She begins every class period with what she calls a quick write; a short exercise in which the students need to answer a question, address a problem, or express a point of view in just a few sentences. She's also working to expand their reading by promoting leisure reading. "I give them a lot of choice about what they read so I can get a feel for what they enjoy."

Teaching middle school students was always her first choice. "You can relate to students at that age. And I find you can really have an influence on them." But she knows the challenges, "Students have a lot going on in their lives outside. I need to help them weed out distractions. A lot is happening with their social development at that stage too and we try to help them keep that in balance."

As for discipline, she's a strong believer in students having self-accountability. "I have high expectations for them. Some students may see that as my being stricter."



Anthony Minus



Bridget Kramer

While she teaches fewer kids than she used to, she gets to teach more subjects and she likes that, "There's a lot of variety and I get to see the difference between 6th, 7th and 8th graders — it's neat."

Jennifer Slaten – Math and social studies teacher

Jennifer began working at St. Matt's in '03. She first took a job with the YMCA who was running St. Matt's afterschool program at the time. After her first year, she suggested they make it a school-run program to earn money and serve more kids. The school accepted her proposal and KLT was born.

Jennifer began to make the switch over to middle school teacher two years ago when she began teaching social studies half-time. Midway through that year she became full-time as both the math and social studies teacher. She loves teaching both subjects, although she admits her relationship with math is more complex. Jennifer explains, "I went into math because I have experience both loving and hating it." She knows how it feels when you get it, but she also knows the frustration when you don't. As a result, she feels better equipped to help students in the same boat.

Jennifer Slaten



She always knew she wanted to work with Middle School students. "I love the energy at that age. You never know what you're going to get from class to class." She also has a reputation for giving lots of homework and she's fine with that, "Homework is about self-discipline. It's designed not only to teach the subject, but to provide lessons in time management."

Last year, Jennifer completed a program at the University of St. Thomas geared towards working with gifted learners. St. Matt's is now creating its own program for gifted learners and Jennifer is heading up the effort. She points out that gifted programs are unusual at Catholic schools, especially urban schools, but the kids need it, "We definitely have students who could benefit. It's structured to cast a wide net, so you can say to a student, 'This has been a little easy for you. Let's try to push you a little more.'"

She says it was random luck that she stumbled on to St. Matt's, but she's come to love the community. "Here's this small community doing so much and having a big impact on the larger community around it. The people here are really passionate about what they do."

From the Editor

New School Families Join Parish

When I interviewed the three new school families featured in this issue, most of my questions were about why they chose to enroll their children or grandchildren at St. Matthew's. In our conversation, I learned that each of the families is Catholic so I asked where they go to church. They told me, but here's what I found surprising. While each family had been a member at another parish, they each planned to join St. Matthew's parish — and in one case had done so already.

I don't know how often that happens — I don't think the information is even collected, but it's a good example of how the school can be a way to get the word out about St. Matthew's Parish and help build membership.

The fact is good things are happening at both the school and church. St. Matthew's has a tremendous impact on the West Side community. The more we share that with others, the more they'll want to join the effort.

— Maggie Lee, Editor



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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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St. Paul, MN
Permit No. 3673

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

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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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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 13, 7 p.m.

Over 70 different wines will be available to sample plus select cheeses and a tempting 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 Liquor.

MASS ON THANKSGIVING DAY — November 26, 9 a.m.

FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION — December 8

Mass Schedule is 6:30 a.m., 9 a.m. and 5 p.m

MEN'S CLUB CHRISTMAS AUCTION — December 9, 7 p.m.

Get a great deal on items large and small. Money raised supports the Retirement Fund for the School Sisters of Notre Dame and St. Matthew's Holiday Giving for families in need.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT — December 10, 6:30 p.m.

Join the fun when students in K-5th grade sing songs and perform a Christmas pageant. The concert takes place in the church and everyone is welcome.

ROSARY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE — December 12 and 13

Mark your calendar – the Christmas Bake Sale's coming! Home baked goods will be available in the Social Hall on Saturday 2-6 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA — December 13, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The boy scouts will be serving an all you can eat pancake breakfast. Santa will be there so bring your kids and grandkids to get their picture taken.

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE (NON-SACRAMENTAL) —

December 20, 2 and 4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE — December 24, 4:00 p.m.,

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