

Church of St. Matthew

A Catholic community that is a visible expression of God's love



Please accept my deepest gratitude for making the Season of Lent and the Easter Triduum wonderful celebrations for the members and friends of the Church of St. Matthew and for me.

The Fish Fries, the Stations of the Cross, the Confirmation community meal, the Anointing of the Sick, the Easter celebrations, your Easter greetings, cards, and gifts are a glimpse of how the resurrection of Jesus Christ continues in our lives.

Fr. Bob

Parish Staff

All emails are

@st-matts.org

Rev. Robert Kelly, OP, Parochial Administrator
frbobbkellyop

Deacon John Murphy

Deacon Gregg Sroder

Sister Anne Becker, Pastoral Ministry
srannebecker

Cindy Hoffman, Parish Bookkeeper
choffman

Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry
jillkilzer

Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer
skowal

John Riehle, Administrator

jriehle

Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary
lrivera

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Parish Center - 490 Hall Avenue
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651-224-9793

Fax 651.222.2688

Website: st-matts.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sacraments

Please contact the Parish Office regarding Baptism, Marriage, First Communion and Confirmation information.

Bulletin

Announcements are due on Monday by 10:00 a.m. for the next Sunday's bulletin. *Items received after 10:00 a.m. will appear in the following week's bulletin.*

Liturgy Schedule

Monday - Wednesday - Friday 8:00 a.m.

Thursday - 9:30 a.m. at Community of Saints School

Saturday - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

and by appointment

Prayer Line

Hope 651.457.0228 Cathy 651.455.5473

Readings for the Week of April 23, 2017

Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-9/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-9/Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21

Next Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



I believe all of us have let a birthday of someone we know and love slip by us. When this happens, we become a little disappointed in ourselves. We either wonder and sometimes we are told what the person, whose birthday we forgot, thinks of us. With some personal embarrassment, we stop at a nearby drugstore, pick up, and send a belated birthday card with words of apology inside.

Last Sunday there was a birthday that most of us, if not all of us, let slip by. We were so excited celebrating the resurrection of Jesus that most if not all of us forgot what was born from the resurrection. We forgot that the resurrection of Jesus Christ gave birth to our faith in God.

Without the resurrection, Jesus would have been just another person in history, who lived in the region of Palestine, who threatened the Jewish hierarchy, who created a problem for the Roman government, and who was crucified to get rid of the problems he has created. But because of his resurrection, we believe that God has given to us a savior whose miracles give us hope, whose teachings give us truth, and whose promises of eternal life

give birth to our faith.

In today's gospel, the Apostle Thomas is very much like us. He is so wrap up in an event that he misses what the event does. Not until he probes the nail marks in the feet and hands of Jesus and the wound left in his side does Thomas believe and respond with the most explicit expression of faith found in any of the Gospels—"My Lord and my God!"

In his book *Voyages with John: Charting the Fourth Gospel*, Robert Kysar writes that in John's gospel the Holy Spirit is responsible for the birth of faith in the first followers of Jesus as well as in us. The Spirit is part of the fourth evangelists understanding of how the message is both received and affirmed. Intellectually, Thomas was unable to accept that Jesus had risen from the dead. At first, he could neither accept nor understand this truth. But the Spirit of God, breaking down the barriers of prejudice, skepticism, and unbelief in the mind of Thomas gave him the spiritual understanding to truly see the risen Lord, and to profess his faith in Jesus as Lord and God.

To give birth to faith in God, the Spirit of God works in a mind that is searching for truth, is willing to receive the truth, and to accept the truth. I think that most of us have interest in truth, the energy to pursue the truth, and the ability to accept the truth when we are younger. But as we age, slow down, and grow in wisdom, we somehow feel that our tried and tested faith is what it is and no further expectations, no additional activities, no spiritual supplements will advance its growth.

But the Spirit uses the witnessing of a believing community to give birth to faith each day. The faith of the other disciples had a powerful influence on Thomas, encouraging him to search, to receive, and to accept a stronger faith. His coming to faith was not just his experience alone but something that took place within a new-born community of believers.

It seems to me that we can celebrate the resurrection of Jesus as a once a year event or we can celebrate the resurrection of Jesus as the birth of our faith every day. I find it interesting that our human spirit somehow knows the importance of our chronological birthdays, the importance of our years of married and single life, and the importance of our years working at a vocational or a professional calling. Sometimes on a grand scale, we celebrate birthdays, we honor anniversaries, and we commemorate years of service.

But how much more should we be counting and reverencing the years of our faith in God because without these years, our human spirit would not survive to recognize and to celebrate the other years. So as we grow older, as we see our physical and mental capabilities diminish, do we doubt our faith in God or do we see it as an invitation to care for our faith as parents nurture and care for a child who is experiencing growing pains?

During the season of Easter, as we rehear the stories about the early followers of Jesus Christ, I believe we can learn more about who we are and who we are called to be as individuals and as a community committed in faith to the person and mission of Jesus Christ. We can witness confidently to Christ's resurrection, knowing that the Spirit will use our words and our strength to bring ourselves and others to a deeper faith in God. While it is important that the resurrection of Jesus Christ took place, it is more important that the resurrection of Jesus Christ gives birth to our faith each day. Happy Birthday to us all!

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS 4-9-17

Parish

Plate	\$ 828	COS School	\$51
Envelopes	\$2,908	Faith Formation	\$125
Electronic Giving	\$1,081		
Easter Envelope	\$25		
Mass Intentions	\$80		
Vigil Lights	\$29		
Easter Flowers	\$34		

Total **\$5,166**

Thank you!

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS 4-16-17

Parish

Plate	\$1,619	Fuel	\$10
Envelopes	\$2,673	COS School	\$65
Electronic Giving	\$187	Loaves & Fishes	\$358
Easter Envelope	\$2,619	Holy Land	\$438
Mass Intentions	\$87		
Vigil Lights	\$56		
Stole Fee	\$97		

Total **\$8,209**

Thank you!

News and Events

AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE

You may receive 10% reduction on your car insurance if you participate in this course. This refresher course will be Friday, May 12 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm in St. Matthew's Social Hall. Cost for the course: AARP members: \$18; non-members: \$23. To register, please call the Parish Center: [651-224-9793](tel:651-224-9793)



WE WELCOME INTO OUR PARISH FAMILY

Wayne Phillip Paredes and Nautica Marie Paredes, children of Alesha Paredes, who were Baptized today at St. Matthew's.



SPRING HAS ARRIVED AND YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Flower beds need clearing. Lawns need raking. Parking lots need cleaning. Bring your rakes, shovels, hoses, gloves, and preferred garden tools to spruce up St. Matthew's for the summer. Meet in the Social Hall on Saturday, April 29, 9:00 am - 11:00 am.

COMMUNITY OF SAINTS ALL SCHOOL REUNION

You are invited to attend the Community of Saints Regional Catholic School Reunion on Sunday, April 30th at 11:00 a.m. at the COS Chapel. This year's highlighted classes will be those years ending in 2 and 7 ie 1962 or 1987. If you attend St. Michael, St. Matthew, Our Lady of Guadalupe, or St. John Vianney, please come be our honoured guests at our Alumni Reunion. Following Mass there will be a light brunch in the gym. **All parishioners whether alumni or not are invited to attend. Please RSVP by April 26th to 651.457.2510.**

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL UPDATE

We have \$11,867 in pledges; that is 73% of the goal; about \$4,500 to go
 We have 86 pledgers this year (only 62 last year)
 Remember: we will receive 25% if we make the goal
 17 ministries are supported, each broader than any parish...
 Thank you to all who have given to the appeal... You still have time to make your pledge or contribution. Please be a part of this year's Catholic Service Appeal.

COMMUNITY DINNER THANK YOU

Our April community dinner after the Confirmation blessing Mass happened due to the generosity of the St. Matthew community. Thanks to Jackie and Kathy for shopping and to Donna and Chris for planning. Thanks to Chris, Irene, Clara, Annie, and Rita for decorating the Social Hall, and thanks to the custodian staff for setting up the tables. Thanks to Donna, Kathy, Diane, Greg, and Ann for food preparation. Thanks to Myrna and Julius for serving the meal. Thanks to Al, Jerald, Charlie, Chris, Becky, and many others already named previously for clean-up. All the wonderful desserts were provided by parishioners and Confirmation families—thank you!

CATHOLIC WATCHMEN RALLY

Tuesday, May 16, 6:30 – 9 p.m.
 Holy Name of Jesus, 155 County Road 24, Medina
 Men are invited to the Catholic Watchmen Rally. Fr. John Echert will speak on *Fathers Leading Families in the Faith: The Biblical Perspective Applied to Today*. This evening is an opportunity for men to draw closer to Jesus Christ and invest in fellowship with other men. There will be time for Adoration and Confession. Dinner will be provided. Registration is not required. A free will offering will be collected. Questions? Contact Enzo Randazzo at randazzov@archspm.org or [651-291-4483](tel:651-291-4483).

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 22
 4:00 pm Joseph R. & Jean Stevens†
Sunday, April 23
 10:00 am Our Parish
 Eugene Simmons†
Monday, April 24
 8:00 am Bill Higginbotham, Healing
Wednesday, April 26
 8:00 am David Andrews†
Friday, April 28
 8:00 am Geriann Raway, Thanksgiving
Saturday, April 29
 4:00 pm Pamela Stickler†,
 Robert Stckler Sr.† and
 Lucille Stickler†
Sunday, April 30
 10:00 am Our Parish
 Bea Groetsch†
 Dick Potzman, Special Intention

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 22
 4:00 pm Mass Food Collection
Sunday, April 23 Divine Mercy Sunday
 10:00 am Sunday Mass Food Collection
 11:00 Coffee Sunday Social Hall
Monday April 24 – Friday, April 28
 5:00-6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes Social Hall
Monday, April 24
 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. St. Mary's Clinic
Tuesday, April 25
Wednesday, April 26
 8:00 am - 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic PC
Thursday, April 27
 9:30 am COS Student Mass at
 COS Chapel
 4:30 - 7:30 pm Finance/Parish Council
 Meetings Parish Center
Friday, April 28
Saturday, April 29
 4:00 pm Mass
Sunday, April 30
 10:00 am Sunday Mass
 11:00 Coffee Sunday Social Hall

Children's Corner

CATHOLIC TERMS WORD SEARCH



- Amen
- Catholic
- Crucifix
- Holy
- Jesus
- Mary
- Rosary
- Sacraments
- Saints



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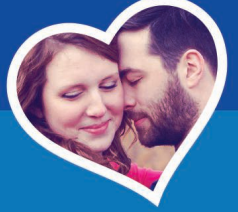
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