



St. Matthew Parish Welcomes You!

Easter Vigil Marks Culmination of RCIA Process

4th Grade Class Shares Easter Traditions

Hares for Haiti

News about St. Matthew Parish & School in Oak Creek, Wisconsin

March 2010

St. Matthew's Parish Welcomes YOU!

An "Alleluia" welcome to everyone celebrating Easter, especially those visiting relatives or friends in the parish, or those returning to our parish. Easter is the high point of the Church year. On Easter, as on every Sunday of the year, we celebrate the Life, Death and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In fact, the Church calls Easter the "mother of ALL Sundays!"

The faith community of St. Matthew's parish gladly welcomes you back to pray with us whenever you are in our area. If you have moved to this vicinity and have

been searching for a parish community to which you can belong, this is a warm, welcoming, prayerful community of fellow believers who, like you, are on a journey of faith. We invite you to journey with us.

We have several community-building events throughout the year, and have a vibrant school and religious education program for children, youth, adults and families. We have a dedicated staff and parishioners who join together in a myriad of ways to build up God's Kingdom in this southeast corner of Milwaukee County and northern Racine County in the

Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

As it states on our Welcome Banner hanging on our Little Brick Church: **Welcome! Come grow with us!**

Easter Blessings!

Rev. Patrick O'Loughlin
Pastor

Cliff Shelton
Parish Council Chair

Easter Vigil Marks Culmination of RCIA Process

We are celebrating the 2010 Easter Vigil at St. Matthew, which marks a special time in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process. It's the night that those in the program spend about nine months getting prepared for. A total of four people have gone through the 2009-2010 RCIA process at St. Matthew including Joe Gaber, Dennis Lubbert, Amy Mlot, and Yvonne Siira. To understand why the 2010 Easter Vigil is so important, let's take a brief journey through the four stages of the RCIA program.

Catholic converts, particularly those who seek to be baptized into the Catholic faith, are expected to go through the RCIA process in order to become baptized Catholics

at the Easter Vigil service. RCIA is actually comprised of a series of instructional classes, interspersed with liturgical rites marking the various stages along the journey to becoming a Catholic convert.

During the first phase, called Inquiry, people are finding out about Jesus, Christianity, and the Catholic Church. At St. Matthew, Inquiry Sessions are held two or three times through out the summer months. During this time, those interested in the process meet with members of the RCIA Team to determine if they want to join the process during the upcoming year. The task of those who take part in Inquiry is to explore and develop their faith enough so they can make an informed initial decision

about entering the Catholic Church. Their final decision won't come for a long time, when they actually enter the Church at the Easter Vigil and receive the sacraments of initiation.

The Rite of Acceptance is the first public ritual celebrated in the RCIA program. After a period of inquiries, the inquirer now declares to the public that he/she wants to further his/her journey towards full initiation with the Catholic Church. During the Rite, usually celebrated with the Church Community during the 9:30 AM Mass, the whole assembly together with the sponsors offer their support and witness to these men and women. Those who decide to enter the Church are being trained for a life

continued on page 2...

in Christ. Once actually agreeing to join the RCIA process, people are called Catechumens, an ancient name from the early Church.

In the second stage, Catechumens develop their faith and are being “catechized” — learning catechism, or the basic points about Catholic faith and life. During this phase, the job of Catechumens is now to come into closer contact with God and learn more about the Catholic Faith. During this period, the Catechumen will also participate in what is known as a Dismissal Rite. During the 9:30 AM Mass, the Catechumen will attend together with the Church Community and will be ‘dismissed’ after the proclamation of scripture and homily, but before Fr. Pat begins the intercessory prayers. The Catechumens are ‘dismissed’ to reflect deeper on the scripture and prayer and their meanings to discipleship. Reflecting on the Scripture after the ‘dismissal’ is also known as Breaking Open the Word. Breaking Open the Word is the sharing of the Gospel reading taken from the weekend’s Mass. After the ‘dismissal’,

the Catechumens will usually go to the Good Shepard Room, where a member of the RCIA Team will reflect on the understanding of the day’s Gospel reading. The Catechumens are then to reflect deeply on the readings and its applications to discipleship.

The Rite of Election is one of the most significant rites in the RCIA process. After an extended period of discernment and learning about the Catholic Faith, the Community now gives witness to God’s election of the Catechumens to embrace the mission of Jesus. During this Rite, carried out at the Cathedral in Downtown Milwaukee, the Catechumens will be asked to inscribe their names into the Book of Elects. The Rite is also when the church formally recognizes that the Catechumens are ready for the Sacrament of Baptism. At the end of this Rite, the Catechumens are known as Elects.

A period of purification and enlightenment is part of the third stage. This is also the final stage before receiving the sacraments of initiation into the Church at the

Easter Vigil: baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist. Those already baptized with a valid baptism in another Christian church aren’t baptized again. This stage of intense reflection calls Elects to deeper conversion in preparation for their renewal at Easter. This is what the season of Lent is for, but it has a special intensity for catechumens this year as they are entering the Church and receiving the sacraments of initiation. The Church uses three profound and beautiful passages from the Gospel of John to focus this preparation effort.

The final stage of the RCIA process is mystagogy, which takes place during the Easter season. It is a time for continued reflection on the sacraments that the elect received at St. Matthew’s Easter Vigil. Specific catechesis on the Mass, the Sacraments, and especially the Eucharist are the focus of this stage.

— *Robert Tabern*



OOOPS! Buzz Correction!

In the February 2010 Buzz, it was reported that Dale Galewski was one of the Catholic Schools Week participants and the owner of the new Topper’s Pizza location in Franklin. However, his name is really Dave Galewski. Our sincere apologies.

ST. MATTHEW'S 4TH GRADE CLASS SHARES Easter Traditions

Recently, I had the chance to sit down with some students in St. Matthew's 4th Grade class to talk about what their favorite Easter traditions. Hopefully reading their memories will help you remember some of your favorite Easter memories when you were 8 years old. Special thanks to 4th Grade teacher Jackie Luther and 7th Grade teacher Mary Jean McDonald for their assistance with this article and having the children write mini-essays. — *Robert Tabern*



Jacklyn Payne

"Our family looks for our Easter baskets with a ton of candy in them. The day before we do that, we color Easter eggs with crayons and dye or anything else we want. We also go to church on Sunday for Easter Mass. Sometimes I go out and give my cousins Easter eggs. And everyday I visit my 84-year-old great grandma and talk to her. Then we have a huge Easter egg hunt with a ton of Easter eggs that can fill three whole sacks."



Jenny Budzisz

"My family and I wake up and go downstairs and we find our Easter baskets. And then we have some chocolate milk and go to church. Then we eat a nice breakfast with eggs and toast and more milk. Yum. And then the best part, we eat our candy. That's how the Budzisz family celebrates Easter."



Rebecca Koronkowski

"We get some of our family together and we pray. I go to Mass with my family and then we find our Easter baskets. We spend almost our whole day with our family and we also have a special family dinner. We also go to our aunt's house and have an Easter egg hunt. We spend the next day doing something fun as a family."



Mathew Attipetty

"On Easter, my parents wake me and my sister up and we all paint Easter eggs. We then sit around the table and have a special bread and special drink to recreate the Last Supper. We then say prayers and read Bible passages and go to church. Once we get home from church, we relax the rest of the day around the house."



Kassandra Bartek

"On Easter Sunday, my family and I wake up and get ready to gather. Then we get a dove holder for a candle and light it and we say a prayer. The dove holder is something my dad has had since he was little and it's made of glass and plastic."

hares for haiti



On January 12, 2010 a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck about 16 miles west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. In the two weeks that followed, at least 52 aftershocks measuring 4.5 or greater had been recorded. As of the latest reports, the Haitian Government reports that between 217,000 and 230,000 people had been identified as dead, an estimated 300,000 injured, and an estimated 1,000,000 homeless. The death toll is expected to rise. They also estimated that 250,000 residences and 30,000 commercial buildings had collapsed or were severely damaged.

To help raise money for the victims of the Haiti Earthquake, students in St. Matthew's 7th Grade class are participating in the "Hares for Haiti" campaign. Students are selling paper hares for 75 cents a piece, with all funds going to relief efforts. 7th Grade teacher Mary Jean McDonald explains, "The reason we chose to sell the hares for 75 cents is because that is the price of a can of soda. We are trying to show people they can make a difference by giving up less than a dollar." Once the hare is sold, it is decorated and shows the student's initials who sold it. The hares are then hung up around the classroom. McDonald says, "The goal is to wrap the hares totally around the classroom." As of March 10th, it is estimated that the class has already raised \$90.

— Robert Tabern

2010 Lenten Project: Helping Hands for Haiti

Don't forget our Lenten project will be collecting donations for those who were affected by the earthquake in Haiti. The contributions will be sent to the World Mission Ministries for distribution.

Look for additional information regarding the Lenten Project, Helping Hands for Haiti in the weekly bulletins.

— Maria Caduto

St. Matthew Parish Buzz

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Mrs. McDonald & the 7th Grade Class

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