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## A Conversation With Carol Daun, Director of Child and Family Formation

One of the core traditions of the Church is the passing on our faith from one generation to the next. Our immediate families and home life certainly play an important role of our faith journey. But the family of believers at St. Matthew also plays a key role in helping all of us, young and old, understand our faith. By serving as the parish's Director of Child and Family Formation, Carol Daun is helping ensure that St. Matthew offers age-appropriate and meaningful instruction in the Catholic faith for the entire parish. This is a part-time position that Carol has held since August of this year.



Carol Daun directs parish faith formation programs.

A cornerstone of this Ministry is religious education. Daun explains that the parish offers "religious education classes for preschool (K3) through - 5th grade. The preschool and K5 classes meet on Sundays during the 9:30 a.m. Mass," she explains, adding that

"grades 1 through 5 meet on Monday nights from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m."

Daun directs the Families of Faith program that meets twice a month, on Sundays from 9 a.m. to noon. "The entire family gathers at 9:00 a.m. in the cafeteria, where we go over the scripture for that Sunday," she says. "Then all the families go to 9:30 a.m. Mass, and we gather again after the Mass for a light breakfast followed by instruction at the various age levels. Some of the parents in the program serve as the catechists (instructors) for ages 3 through the high school ages. And while the children are meeting to learn on their level, the parents stay in the cafeteria to learn and discuss different faith and parenting issues. At 11:30, everyone comes together for a family activity that sums up what we all were learning," Daun explains.

The Families of Faith program is open to all families. For those in the religious formation classes, it fulfills their children's religious formation requirement. For school families, it's a wonderful addition to their faith life.

Daun also directs the sacramental program for students preparing for the sacrament of reconciliation and Eucharist. "When we prepare children for these sacraments, it is done on a

parish level," she says. "This includes all second graders and fourth graders (both those in the public school and at St. Matthew School) who haven't yet received Reconciliation. For this year, we have 110 students preparing for Reconciliation and around 68 preparing for Eucharist. The program is set up so that the children's teacher covers one lesson each week and for each lesson there is a family component that is done at home."

Other areas that Daun oversees as Director of Child and Family Formation are the children's Liturgy of the Word that is offered during the Homilies at the 9:30 a.m. Mass during Advent and Lent and Vacation Bible School. She also directs the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children, a program for families whose children are over age 7 and have either not been baptized or have not received the sacraments.

Daun understands that a faith-filled home is key to reinforcing the faith messages taught at St. Matthew. "My goal is for parents to realize and embrace the awesome and wonderful responsibility they have in forming their children's faith," she says. "We have wonderful, dedicated volunteers who teach the children each week, but if the faith is not lived and talked about at home, the children will not really un-

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derstand why this important. I want to provide the families with all the help and starting points for creating a household of faith at home as well as in our parish.”

This emphasis on faith-by-example in the home may stem from Daun’s own upbringing. “I was brought up in a very observant Catholic family,” she recalls. “We always went to church together, we talked about our faith A LOT, and we prayed together. I went to a Catholic grade school. When I graduated from college with a degree in education, I knew I wanted to teach in a Catholic grade school. I taught for four years at Blessed Trinity on the north side of Milwaukee, and then I taught at St. Roman’s on the south

side,” she adds. “When my husband and I had our first child, I quit my job to stay home. I became a catechist at St. Therese, and later became the Director of Child Ministry, and served in that capacity for five years.”

The archdiocese requires that all teachers of religion take classes in Scripture, Theology and Methods/Psychology. There are basic, intermediate, and advanced levels. Each level requires 40 hours of training. Daun has completed the basic and intermediate levels, and is working towards advanced certification. She notes that her experience at St. Therese as well as her degree in education was taken into account for her position as Director of Child and Family Formation at St. Matthew.

In addition to her parish religious education responsibilities, Daun has a full home life. “My husband, James, and I have been married 10 years, and have four children: Noah, age 8; Anna, age 6; JohnPaul, age 4; and Teresa, age 2,” she says. “We moved to Oak Creek two years ago after living in Cudahy for 6 years. Our main interests right now are our children and all their sports and activities. I also love to read, do things with our kids, go shopping, etc.”

If you would like more information on any of the religious formation programs directed by Daun, please contact her at 762-4200 ext 13; or by email at [cdaun@stmattoc.org](mailto:cdaun@stmattoc.org)

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## **Building on a Good Idea Garage Project On-Track To Help Many Parish Groups**

What began as the seed of an idea from the Fish Boil crew is blossoming into a four car garage, with a pavilion planned for spring of 2006.



Last year, the Fish Boil Committee came to Buildings and Grounds Committee and proposed that a new building be erected to house not only their fish boil equipment, but also include storage space for other parish groups. This idea grew into the four car garage

that is currently under construction west of our two existing garages.

A new structure was needed because the existing garages are deteriorating. Space is a big concern, too. Athletic, fish boil, and festival equipment is all housed in these garages, along with parish grounds equipment. The space is often in disarray from having so much equipment stored together. The new garage will offer separate space that will lead to greater accountability and care of parish equipment.

While much of the planning was done over the past winter, the real challenges began in spring, when the concept of a steel building was presented to the Oak Creek Planning Commission.

The steel building was appealing to the parish, since it was prefabricated and easy to assemble. Unfortunately, an Oak Creek ordinance does not permit steel buildings of the size we wanted. So the changes began and the building became stick-built (typical wood construction) with a cement board-simulated wood exterior. After three meetings, the project was approved by the Oak Creek Planning Commission. We had hoped to start the project as soon as school ended in June, but instead we were out looking for an architect that could put together plans for the garage and pavilion. By the end of July, the architect was finished, and we had plans for the garage and the pavilion.

Funding for the big project came from

*Continued on next page.*

*Garage, continued from page two.*

the Fish Boil workers and attendees, an anonymous donor, Sievert Trucking, the Home and School Association, the Athletic Association, some individual donors, and all the donated work.

The plans then went to the city of Oak Creek Inspections Department. It took nearly two weeks to get our approvals from the city and then we were ready to go. By late August, the stakes were in the ground and we were peeling back the grass to lay the concrete slab for the garage. Mark Zapp was leading the project and putting down the stakes. Joe Weinsatl came by with his Bobcat loader and scraped away the grass and dirt. We were finally underway!

The next step was to bring in stone, which was provided by Sievert trucking. Joe helped get this spread around and Mark made sure it was all compacted. The forms went up for the foundation, the mesh was put in place and we were ready for our first inspection. About that time we had our first big rainfall of the summer, of course it occurred in September. The rain hardly slowed down progress at all, and at 7 a.m. on a crisp September Saturday morning, the concrete mixers showed up. It took three trucks and nearly 20 cubic yards of concrete, but the garage slab was done by noon!

The next hurdle was getting the wood and supplies delivered. Within a week the wood was here and the walls started. It took a little while to get things going. There was wind damage from yet another September storm, but by the end of the month all the walls were in place.

In October, the goal was to get the roof and the building closed up. The first few weekends have been used to get the trusses put in place. This is quite an effort considering only man power is being used, no lifts or cranes. Those trusses are heavy! By mid-October all the trusses were in place. With fascia boards attached and the plywood and edging attached, shingling started October 29th. Doors are being installed and the siding added. After the transfer of internal equipment, the old garages will be removed, hopefully by early December.

There are many people to thank for all their hard work, my apologies if I miss anyone that helped. Thanks to Mark Zapp, Joe Weinsatl, Mike Kuick, Mark Kozlowski, Pat Daily, Tom Schneider, Tom Ruthsmandorfer, Thad Rolling, Steve Anderson, Roland Komorowski, Jack Rehn, 'Mayor' Dick Bolender, John Krajnak, Leo Muszynski, Jim Muszynski, Dan Wachs, Al Hobbs, Dave Sims, Brian Kucharski, Joe & John Weiss, Steve Joosten, Tim Dugan, and Gary Yost.

We're very proud of the way these "stewards" are using their time and talent to improve community life and grounds of our parish.

— *article by Alan Bronikowski*  
— *photos by Dick and Carol Tenner and Mike Kuick*



# St. Matthew School Field Day

Field Day is an annual event filled with activities and fun for students, faculty, and parents, with an emphasis on co-operation framed by friendly competition. — photos by Garyl Schultz





### Kathy Ashbaugh's Green Thumb

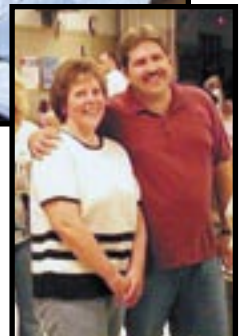
If you admired the beautiful flower beds as you entered the church grounds this summer, be sure to pass a word of thanks along to parishioner Kathy Ashbaugh (inset).

Kathy says she loves flowers, and wanted to share her gardening talents by caring for the flowerbeds. She is interested in enlisting others to form a group of people to work with her, caring for the flower beds on a rotating basis. Please call the parish office a 762-4200 if you would like to join Kathy.

— Article and photos by Mike Kuick

## St. Matthew FunFest

— Photos by Dick and Carol Tenner



## Scenes From Last Month's Ministry Fairs

—Photos by Dick and Carol Tenner



Daniel Bloomer

**Charles and Kathleen Bulko**

Martin and Abigail Champagne, Brandon Wroblewski,  
Ryan Wroblewski, Bryana Champagne, Garret Champagne

**Phillip and Lynda Citro, Kelli and Kyle**

Thomas and Lisa Deptula, Laura, Jennifer and Andrew

**Anthony and Janel Holtz, Autumn and Anthony**

Mike and Jenny Jorgensen, Amanda and Michael

**Kathryn Kreitzer and Morgan**

Florence Michalslu

**Brian and Michelle Nelson, Joseph and Jacob**

Michael Pochawski and Tanya Niedzwiecki

**Scott and Diane Prodzinski, Amanda and Joseph**

Lucas and Noreen Stern, Sophia

**Chris and Denise Winkler, Angela, Michael, Crystal, Brandon  
and Heather**

Christopher and Jennifer Blunt, Lauren, Morgan, Jenna and  
Ryan

**Jeremy and Melissa Brown, Christina Meyer, Christopher  
Brown**

Tom and Amy Chojnowski, Alexis and Kalsie

**Jeffrey and Amy Clark, Taylor and Carter**

Anne Marie Dain

**Steven Edlebeck and Julie Langfeldt, Jamee**

Nicolas and Tamara Foucault, Collin

**Ryan and Karen Gonzalez**

Paul and Kelly Koronkowski, Rebecca and Sophie

**Peter and Jessy Kuttamparambil, Mathrn and Alan**

Daniel and Grace Ladewig, Juliet, Sofia and Roman

**Tim and Tonya McDugle, Nathan and Logan**

Joel and Laurie Paar, Madelyn, Nolan and Samuel

**Darrell and Carolyn Schaefer, Taylor and Parker**

Jean Senner, Aleena and Haley

**Sheila and Jimmy Stone, Josh, Ashley, Alanna, and Justin**

Kou and Sia Vang, Sylvia, Tom and Mhia

**Scott and June VanPinsker, Olivia**

Arthur and Jennifer Zimmerman, Makenzie and Jon

### St. Matthew Parish Buzz

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