

- St. Matthew School 8th Graders Raise Funds For Trip to Nation's Capital
- Parish Involvement Day and Capital Campaign Kick-Off
- Holy Name Society Card Social

Fundraising Underway for 8th Grade Class Trip

Annual Trip To Nation's Capital is Funded by Students' Hard Work

It's hard to believe the school year is already wrapping up at St. Matthew, but students now have less than 3 months until summer vacation comes calling. One of the highlights for many eighth graders at our parish school is the annual class trip to the nation's capital. Between May 2 - 6, 2006, the soon-to-be graduates will be jumping aboard busses to head to Washington, D.C. where they will explore all the monuments and different sites. It's not only a time of enjoyment, it's a learning experience, and a chance for students to spend some final days with friends, who in some cases, have been also classmates for as long as eight years.

Preparations Begin 12 Months in Advance

Obviously, such an undertaking takes a lot of planning. Many people don't know that preparations actually begin a year ahead of time. Parents and others who helped organize this year's trip to Washington, actually had their first meeting last spring. One of the key aspects to planning this trip is how to raise enough money so all students can afford to go, and so the cost of the trip doesn't present a big financial burden to the students' families.



St. Matthew School 8th graders served up a pancake breakfast on Sunday, February 12 as part of their efforts to raise funds for a trip to Washington D.C.

The average cost per student for the week-long trip would normally cost around \$600. However, a key way of cutting that cost is to hold a number of fundraisers throughout the year. One of the largest fundraisers is the St. Matthew Pancake Breakfast, which was held last month. On Sunday, February 12, hundreds of people filed into the downstairs cafeteria to enjoy 'all-you-can-eat' pancakes, sausage, coffee, and juice.

Some of the key organizers of the pancake breakfast were Laurie Stodola, Maria Schulner, Paula Pintar, Jill Schwanda, and Barb and Fred Sadler. Many of the supplies, including spoons, butter pads, bowls, cups, ice, juice, and napkins were donated. They were made available by local restaurants in Oak Creek including Culver's, Mc Donald's, Burger King, and Wendy's. One of the organizers, Laurie Stodola says, "the support of the retailers was a key part of our pancake breakfast. I want to thank those companies who helped out and I would also encourage people to say 'thank you' to the companies as well." There were also donations for a raffle which was held at the breakfast. Lucky winners ended up taking home a bird house, a Market Place gift card, and a special Valentine's Day package.

Parents and Students Team Up To Serve

If you notice a few familiar faces at the pancake breakfast, you were probably right! Parents and eighth grade students strapped on aprons to staff the breakfast. There were a lot of roles too that needed to be volunteered for... everything from servers, to cooks, to those who gave their time to clean up once the last pancake was done being grilled up. Our deacon, John Stodola, even got a surprise after the 9:30 a.m. Mass when out-of-town relatives showed up to celebrate his 50th birthday right at the breakfast!

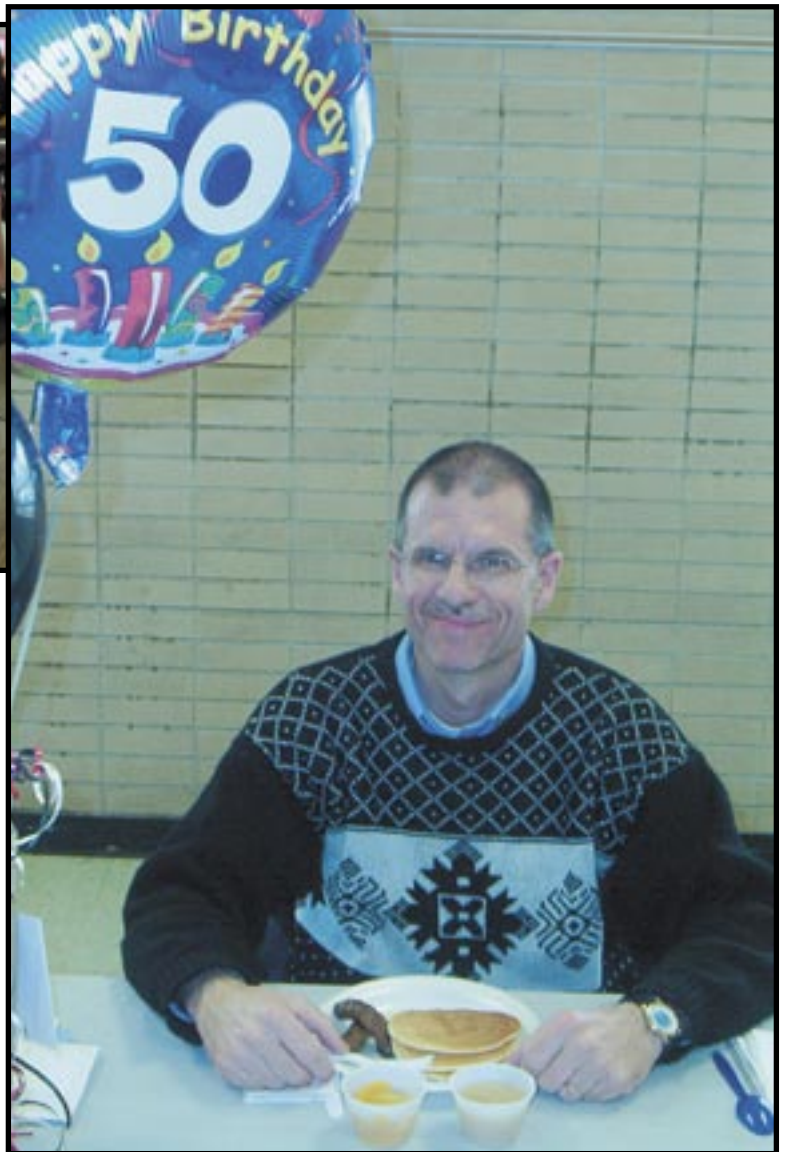
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Eighth grade, continued from page one.

Organizers were hoping to raise at least \$800 from this event alone. However, besides the pancake breakfast, other fundraisers are held to off-set the cost of the trip. That included a total of 4 junior high school dances that were quite popular. There is also a talk of a spaghetti dinner taking place if more money is needed.

There is still time if you'd like to help in this year's trip... as the students begin counting down the days until they get to head to the east coast.

— *Article and photos by Robert Tabern*



Deacon John Stodola celebrated his 50th birthday with a stack of flapjacks at the 8th graders' pancake breakfast.



Look What's Happening at Our Parish Next Weekend

You're invited and encouraged to attend

Parish Involvement Day

Next Saturday morning, March 25

The Guest Speaker for the morning will be Randy Nohl, Director of Lifelong Formation, Archdiocese of Milwaukee. He will be introducing us to Generations of Faith this new and exciting way of deepening our understanding of our Faith and growing together as a parish community. It's coming to St. Matthew this fall and will offer EVERYBODY, singles, couples and families, a fun and engaging way to grow in the life of Christ.

Starting this fall, Generations of Faith programs about the church year will enrich our parish with hospitality, prayer and sharing. Come and learn about Generations of Faith and find out how this exciting program is invigorating parishes around the country!

~Please join us along with St. Mary's Parish
for a morning of strengthening our knowledge of the faith~

- 7:30am – Registration / Hospitality
- 8am-11am – Involvement Day

*Phone the Parish Office to Register (414) 762-4200, ext. 20

Capital Campaign Kickoff Set For Next Weekend, March 25 and 26

"The time is at hand!" Usually a Lenten biblical passage, this phrase applies to our parish's next Capital Campaign. For those who pledged over a three-year period for Phase I, that period of time will conclude on April 30th. We're ready to take our next big steps towards building our new church and having our gym.

Kick-off Weekend is next weekend: March 25-26th at all Masses. Fr. Bill will be working closely with Eileen and Al Hobbs and Patty and Scott Butzer who have agreed to be co-chairs of our campaign. We'll be receiving a special mailing this

week with important information about topics that were raised in our Listening Sessions. Fr. Bill and our co-chairs will be lifting up our challenges for consideration, and we'll celebrate after Masses in the Gathering Space with special hospitality and festivities. We are working with Joan Feiereisen from Fund Development Corporation as we kick-off this new campaign. We have 633 households who have contributed to our Phase I efforts and we hope to build on this success. We hope you will join us next weekend for new information and some fun!

Good Show of Hands At Holy Name Society Card Party

The Holy Name Society sponsored a card party on Friday, February 24. Food, raffles, door prizes and plenty of old-fashioned card playing fun were enjoyed by all who attended.

— photos by Mike Kuick



St. Matthew Parish Buzz

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