

- St. Matthew School Eighth Grade Class trip to Washington DC
- Summer Mission Trip Plans
- Parishioner Appreciation Dinner Photos

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip Planned

It's a time filled with friends, memories...and yes, a lot of our nation's history. I'm talking about an annual 'right of passage' at St. Matthew School — the annual class trip to Washington, D.C. for eighth graders. In just a few weeks from now, many of the students will pack up and head east to spend a week touring the various monuments and sites that the nation's capital has to offer. The trip is something that eighth grade teacher John Keane has done with his student for a number of years.

But, like any good trip, the upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. takes a lot of planning. Keane picks out some of the sites students will see, while he, parents, and others help plan fundraisers throughout the year to help reduce the cost for students. A major trip like this costs hundreds of dollars per student, but the more money raised, the less of a financial burden it is to the families of those who will be going. Just one of the many fundraisers for the eighth grade class trip was held earlier this year when students sold 2007 calendars in

the Gathering Space after the Masses.

Students say they're looking forward to the trip...many of them have never been to Washington, D.C. before. And, for everyone, it will be a last chance to spend with friends before graduation and high school.

— Article and photo by Robert Tabern



Back in December, eighth graders were selling calendars as part of their trip fundraising effort.

# Planning for Summer Mission Trip Underway

It seems like we often hear of teens being portrayed in a negative light. However, there is a group of teens here at St. Matthew and the surrounding community who are planning to do something positive this summer...and make a big difference in people's lives.

Shelley Madden, Director of Youth Ministry, will take a group of teens on a week-long mission trip to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation on June 16 - 23. That area of South Dakota has one of the highest levels of unemployment and poverty in the country. During their trip, youth will perform a number of important tasks for those in need there – including painting, cleaning, and doing drywall work.

Madden says, "This is not a luxurious

trip by any means. The youth who go on this trip know that they will have a lot of hard work ahead of them and they'll get dirty. We usually stay just once in a hotel the whole week...the other times we will be sleeping in a church or school. But the rewards are so great and the youth learn so many important life lessons."

However, the youth of St. Matthew won't be able to go on this trip and spread the work of Jesus without the financial support of parish members like you.

Madden explains, "I invite everyone in the parish to contribute what they can towards this summer's mission trip. Don't look view this as donating money...consider it that you are buy-

ing a share in these youths' faith and good works."

Very true. You might not be able to directly help the people of Pine Ridge yourself, but you can indirectly touch their lives by supporting the trip. A number of fundraisers are in the works, or for more information or to make a direct donation, contact Shelly Madden at [smadden@stmattoc.org](mailto:smadden@stmattoc.org), or ext. 15 at the (414) 762-4200.

Also, be sure to check out the June 2007 edition of 'The Buzz' for more on what the youth plan to do on this year's mission trip and details on whom they'll be serving at the Pine Ridge Reservation.

— article by Robert Tabern

## Saturday, April 28 Parishioner Appreciation Night Photos

— photos by Mike Kuick



### St. Matthew Parish Buzz

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