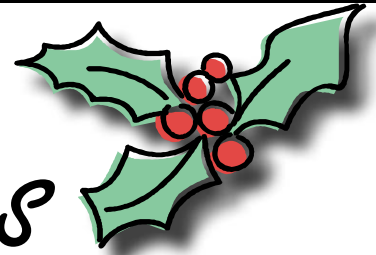
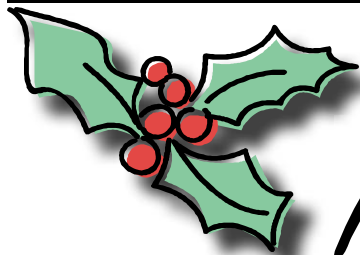


News about St. Matthew Parish
& School in Oak Creek, Wisconsin

- Welcome and Christmas Wishes
- 7th Grade Students Decorate Tree; tour St. Francis de Sales Seminary
- New Teachers at St. Matthews
- Another Christmas Story



Merry Christmas and Welcome!

As we come together to celebrate Christ's Birth and look toward a new year ahead, we would like to extend our wishes for a blessed Christmas to all of our parish family.

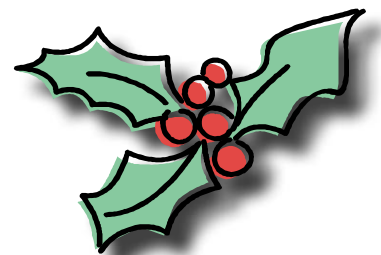
And if you are new to this area, or have only occasionally worshipped at St. Matthew Parish, we welcome you as we celebrate Christ's Birth. St. Matthew Parish is a welcoming community, and we'd love to have you join us regularly to celebrate the Eucharist and the gift of faith we have been given.

As a parish family, we share a sense of vitality that comes from the love of Jesus Christ. Whether it's helping those in need, learning about our faith, worshiping together, building community, or having fun together, you are always welcome here. Check us out — we think you'll like what you discover!

We encourage you to call the parish office at 762-4200 for an appointment to learn more or to register. There are many ways we can serve you and many ways you can participate in parish life.

Again, Wishing You and Your Family a Most Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year

Rev. Patrick O'Loughlin, Pastor
St. Matthew Staff
St. Matthew Parish Council



7th Grade Students Decorate Christmas Tree, Tour Seminary

Last month, 7th graders from Saint Matthew School got to head to downtown Milwaukee to once again decorate a Christmas tree in Cathedral Square, which is part of the Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival.

This year the students also toured Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in Cudahy. While there, Erich Weiss, a seminarian, gave the group a vocations talk. Our pastor, Fr. Pat, joined everyone at Saint Francis as well, and took a tour of the cemetery on the seminary grounds.

Saint Francis de Sales Seminary prepares men of all ages and backgrounds—college students, college graduates and working professionals, from the U.S. and around the globe — for a lifetime of ministry as Catholic priests. It is led by Archbishop Timothy Dolan and Rector Don Hying.

Bishop John Martin Henni established the Seminary in his Milwaukee residence in 1845. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee was only two years old and urgently needed priests to serve German Catholic immigrants. Ten years later, the seminary moved just south of Milwaukee, to a site that included land from the Lake Drive Franciscan Sisters. The new building was dedicated January 29, 1856, the feast day of Saint Francis de Sales. The original seminary building, named Henni Hall in 1956, was renovated in 1989 and remains the center of seminary life. Saint Francis de Sales Seminary has operated at one location longer than any other Catholic seminary in the United States!

In the 1970s, the seminary offered graduate degree programs for lay candidates. In the 1980s, programs were added for the diaconate (those studying to become deacons) and for lay

ministers. Saint Francis de Sales Seminary began its academic collaboration with Sacred Heart School of Theology in 2006. Today the seminary again focuses solely on priestly formation.

— Article and photos by Robert Tabern



Fr. Pat joined the St. Matthew 7th grade class as they toured Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in Cudahy.



St. Matthew School 7th grade students take a break from decorating a Christmas tree in Cathedral Square Park, downtown Milwaukee.

Meet St. Matthew School's Newest Teachers



St. Matthew School Principal Julie Barber (center) poses with the school's two new teachers, Jessica Gosz (L) and Julie Hunholtz.

St. Matthew School seventh grade students Ashley Stone and Rachel Burchardt interviewed two teachers who joined the St. Matthew School staff this school year. Their questions and the answers are below.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

Miss Hunholz: I really loved my fourth grade teacher, she was so nice and I just wanted to be like her.

Ms. Gosz: I loved working with people and I thought that it would be a good job for me.

What made you consider St. Matthews?

Miss Hunholz: I went to St. Alphonsus which is a smaller school just like this school. I thought that it was a perfect fit for me.

Ms. Gosz: I went to a small Catholic school when I was in grade school.

What are your favorite things about St. Matthews?

Miss Hunholz: Everyone here is so friendly and ... well I can't really say what I like, I guess I like every thing.

Ms. Gosz: every one here is very friendly and out going and I just love it here.

How did you choose which grade you wanted to teach?

Miss Hunholz: I love working with younger kids so I chose the 5k class.

Ms. Gosz: I like older kids but not too old like a high school class but middle school is right in between.

Where did you go to college?

Miss Hunholz: I went to UW Oshkosh.

Ms. Gosz: I went to Marquette and Concordia.

What do you love about your job?

Miss Hunholz: The unpredictability and excitement of every day.

Ms. Gosz: I get a lot of different classes and they have different people in them

The Man and the Birds

The story below has been read for many years each Christmas by radio commentator Paul Harvey.

The man to whom I'm going to introduce you was not a scrooge, he was a kind decent, mostly good man. Generous to his family, upright in his dealings with other men. But he just didn't believe all that incarnation stuff which the churches proclaim at Christmastime. It just didn't make sense and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just couldn't swallow the Jesus Story, about God coming to Earth as a man.

"I'm truly sorry to distress you," he told his wife, "but I'm not going with you to church this Christmas Eve." He said he'd feel like a hypocrite. That he'd much rather just stay at home, but that he would wait up for them. And so he stayed and they went to the midnight service.

Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier and then went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper. Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. Then another, and then another. Sort of a thump or a thud. At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against his living room window. But when he went to the front door to investigate he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They'd been caught in the storm and, in a desperate search for shelter, had tried to fly through his large landscape window.

Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter, if he could direct the birds to it. Quickly he put on a coat, galoshes, tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light, but the birds did not come in. He figured food would entice them in. So he hurried back to the house, fetched bread crumbs, sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail to the yellow-lighted wide open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs, and continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them...He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around them waving his arms... Instead, they scattered in every direction, except into the warm, lighted barn.



And then, he realized that they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me...That I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them. But how? Because any move he made tended to frighten them, confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shooed because they feared him.

"If only I could be a bird," he thought to himself, "and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to safe, warm...to the safe warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see, and hear and understand." At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind. And he stood there listening to the bells - Adeste Fidelis - listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. And he sank to his knees in the snow.

St. Matthew Parish Buzz

Produced by the St. Matthew
Communication Committee

Rick Barribeau

Robert Tabern

Amy Cicigoi

Carol Tenner

Kenn Cicigoi

Tom Schneider

Angela Kornacki

Mark Shawver

Submit Photos, Stories or Story Suggestions
to the Communication Committee at

thebuzz@stmattoc.org • 414-764-9617