



December 25, 2011
Nativity of the Lord

St. Matthew Catholic Parish

9303 South Chicago Road ■ Oak Creek, WI 53154 ■ 414-762-4200 ■ www.stmattoc.org

We follow Jesus as a welcoming Catholic community of believers, fostering a life of active prayer and worship, sharing God's word through education and action, and reaching out in service to those in need.

Parish Office

Phone (414) 762-4200
Hours... Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-4:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Email..... Parish@stmattoc.org

Parish Staff

Pastor, Rev. Patrick O'Loughlin x 20

Deacon, John Stodola 559-9957

Director of Administration

Kris Wegner X 21

Parish Secretary,

Linda Anderson x20

Administrative Assistant

Renee Rebesch x 20

Liturgy & Music Director, Judy Wargin .. x 16

Child/Family Formation Director,

Carol Daun..... x 13

Youth Ministry Director,

Shelly Madden x 15

Religious Formation Secretary,

Marge Schultz x 14

Parish School

Office 762-6820

Principal, Julianna Barber x 11

School Secretary, Diane Shadd x 10

Parish Trustees

Secretary, Michael Hofmann .(h) 762-3735

Treasurer, Mike Kuick(h) 764-1313

Parish Council

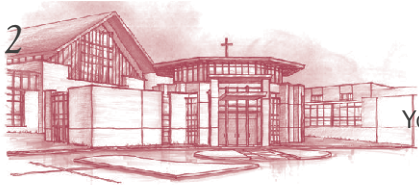
Chairperson, Blanche McQuitty

..... (h) 262-835-4182

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." - Lk 2:11-12



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You may come as a stranger to us, yet you are known to our Lord, Jesus Christ, and in his name we bid you "welcome," praying that you find peace, inspiration and friendship in this parish.

Welcome!

Parish Council

Chris Adams, Steve Anderson, Alan Bronikowski, Donna Dugan, Steve Joosten, Larisa Knorr, Mike Kuick, Michael Hofmann, Blanche McQuitty, Fr. Patrick O'Loughlin, Cliff Shelton

Mass Schedule

Weekend

Saturday 4:00pm, Sunday 7:30 and 9:30am

Sacramental Life

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3pm or call for an appointment.

Marriage

Registered, practicing members, call the Pastor as soon as you are engaged and at least six months in advance of the marriage.

Baptism

We welcome children of registered members, practicing Catholic parent(s)/guardian(s). Please call Deacon John Stodola for more information at (414) 559-9957.

First Communion

Preparation begins in first grade. Please call Child Formation Office for more information.

Anointing of the Sick

First Fridays at Mass or weekends after Masses. Please call Parish Office to register.

Parish Services

Sick/Communion Outreach

Requests for visitation of the homebound should be made to the Parish Office.

Hospital Visitation

If you are hospitalized and wish a visit, please call the Parish Office.

Prayer Network

Prays for personal intentions daily. To add intentions, call Nikki Sunn at 414-762-8145 or e-mail wolfsunn@hotmail.com by Thursday morning each week unless emergency.

Parish Membership

All Catholic adults living in the parish area and regularly participating in Liturgy should register with the Parish. Registration and participation is required for reduced rates in Parish School, Religious Education and Youth Ministry Programs. To join St. Matthew's, call 762-4200 ext. 20 for an appointment.



Question of the Week—December 25, 2011

CHRISTMAS 2011 - Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14 (familiar one)

Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm †Blanche Mueller
6:00 pm The Parishioners of
St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, December 25

7:30 am †Anita Czajka
9:30 am †Eva Lewandowski

Tuesday, December 27

7:45 am †Tim Pitrof

Wednesday, December 28

7:45 am †Karla Bobo

Thursday, December 29

7:45 am †Jim Wertin

Friday, December 30

7:45 am †Richard Nickel

Saturday, December 31

4:00 pm †Tom and Mary Jacobs

Sunday, January 1

7:30 am The Parishioners of
St. Matthew Parish
9:30 am †Dorice Stevens

Many Catholics do not realize there are four distinct Masses with four different sets of readings that can be used at Christmas. On Christmas Eve there is the Vigil Mass with the Gospel from Matthew that tells the genealogy of Jesus. Christmas Eve also has the Mass at Midnight (though not many churches have a Mass at that time any more). Here the Gospel is the familiar story of the birth of Jesus, and of the angels announcing this good news to the shepherds in the field as found in the Gospel of Luke. Christmas Day also has two Masses. The Mass at Dawn continues the Gospel of Luke, taking up the story after the angels have left and the shepherds go to Bethlehem to find Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Finally on Christmas we have the Mass at Day. This time we hear the beautiful Gospel of John that states: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

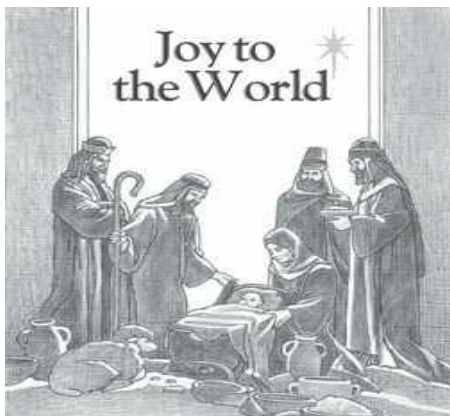
QUESTION: No matter which Gospel you hear this Christmas, we all celebrate the birth of Jesus, Son of God, born in a humble manger in Bethlehem (a previously insignificant place) where the angels introduced Jesus' birth to "unimportant" people (shepherds). How do you introduce those in your life to Jesus on a daily basis?

Your Stewardship Matters

*"She wrapped him in swaddling clothes
and laid him in a manger,
because there was no room
for them in the inn."
(Luke 2:7)*

Where is Jesus in your life? Have you made room for Him or is He still in the manger wrapped in rags? If we are living our lives like all the rest of the modern and commercial world, we may be leaving Jesus out. It might be time to pick up this Infant Child and make Him a priority in our lives.

This week's collection \$14,930



CHRISTMAS - more than a day!

People throughout society may think that Christmas is one day: December 25. Christians know that Christmas is so much more than one day – it's a SEASON, a TIME of the YEAR that stretches into the new year. The coming of Jesus Christ - God becoming a human being born in a humble place in Bethlehem - deserves so much more than one day. The Christmas Season may start with Christmas Eve and Day, but it extends through the Baptism of the Lord (celebrated this year on Monday January 9th).

On Sunday January 1st (the eighth day or octave of Christmas) we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God as we also begin the New Year, 2012. And on January 8th we gather at Masses to celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, the arrival of the three Magi (Kings). We Catholic Christians are truly blessed to have an entire Season to celebrate the mystery of the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ – of God's great love for humankind! We know that Christmas is just the beginning.

Stewardship Contribution



To receive credit for your 2011 Stewardship contributions this year, it must be in the parish office before Thursday, December 29, 2011. (Office will be closed Friday, December 30) The New Year's Eve collection will be part of 2011. New Year's Day collection will be the start of your 2012 contribution. Per IRS regulations, contributions must be applied to the year in which they are received or postmarked, not by the date on the check.

Reaching Out

The members of the Reaching Out committee wish all of you a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year. There is still time to donate articles or cash to **Guest House**, which provides services for homeless men.

Our first agency for the new year is **Meta House**, which works with men and women suffering from drug abuse. To know what items are needed for the coming year please pick up one of the parish calendars in the Gathering Space. There is a copy of the labels for each month of 2012 inside the calendar. Again thank you for your wonderful generosity through out the year.



St. Matthew's
Reaching Out

Asante Sana!

Thank you very Much!

To everyone who came to our Book Fair, and to all who helped make it a great experience, thank you very much! We sold over \$4000 in books, earning us over \$2000 in library books and instructional resources! Awesome! Our St. Matthew One For Books program donated books to the House of Peace; additionally, Scholastic will donate books to one of three national agencies: Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc., National Center for Family Literacy, and Toys for Tots. Keep on reading, and we'll see you at our next Fair; May 18-22, 2011. St. Matthews Book Fair Committee

Christmas Masses for the Homebound

Homebound Catholics unable to attend Christmas Mass at their parish this year may tune in to one of the following:

- December 24 - Relevant Radio –WPJP, FM 100, 8:30pm.
- December 25 - WCGV-TV, channel 24, 9am
- December 25 - WITI-TV, channel 6, 5:30am
- December 25 - WOKY 920 AM Radio, 8 - 8:30am

All of the Masses will be celebrated by Fr. John Puodziunas, OFM, from the Christ King Chapel at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

Mary, Mother of God

Saturday December 31st at 4pm

Sunday January 1st at 7:30am & 9:30am

Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday January 7th at 4pm

Sunday January 8th at 7:30am & 9:30am

A Christmas Video Message from Archbishop Listecki

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki would like to share a special Christmas video message for the faithful of southeastern Wisconsin. For his thoughts on the true meaning of Christmas, and his wish for a blessed new year, please visit tinyurl.com/ListeckiChristmas.

Mass Mysteries

Just before communion, when we say, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof..." We are saying that we are not worthy to have Jesus enter us as he does in Holy Communion. We are acknowledging what a great gift it is to have our Savior physically be a part of us. This response is taken from the gospel story of the centurion who said to Jesus, "I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word and my servant will be healed." [Luke 7:6-7] The centurion's faith in Jesus, that he recognized Jesus had the power to heal just by his word.

Mass Mystery #13

Christmas is a time of gift-giving. What three gifts are brought forward at the presentation of the gifts during Mass?

Can you NAME these Christmas Carols?

Each letter represents the first initial of each word in the first line of a Christmas Carol. For example: OCAYF = O Come All Ye Faithful. How many can you name? Perhaps we've sung some of them at our Christmas Masses?

1. TFNTADS
2. SNHNAICAIB
3. HTHASGTTNK
4. JTTWTLIC
5. AWHHOH
6. WTKOOA
7. GTIOTM
8. OLTQBHSWSTL
9. OHNTSABS
10. GRYMGLNYD

Come to Mass next weekend to get the answers.

ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE AND REGISTRATION

St. Matthew School will begin accepting registrations for the 2012-2013 school year in grades 4K-8 at Open House. St. Matthew Catholic School accepts children of all faiths and has been in operation for over 50 years. Busing is provided to students residing in the Oak Creek-Franklin School District. The 4K program is a full day or half day program. Open Houses will be held on Sunday, January 29, from 10:30am-noon and Friday, February 3, from 10:30am-11:30am. If you have any questions, please call the school office at 414-762-6820 Ext. 10.

Catholic Financial Life

Catholic Financial Life believes in the value of Catholic elementary and high school, as well as higher education, awarding \$720,000 in scholarships the past three years. In 2011 alone, Catholic Financial Life, awarded 911 scholarships and grants to members, totaling more than \$240,000! Of these scholarships:

- Every family that applied for a Catholic elementary scholarship received one.
- 62% of high school and 36% of college applicants received one.

Catholic Financial Life is committed to helping educate our future leaders. To find out more on scholarships, please contact Deborah Hecker at (262) 796-1212 ext. 30.

Fraternally,

Deborah Hecker, FIC

Headquartered: Milwaukee, WI

Celtic Spiritual Retreat

Retreat Theme: "Forgotten Glories of an Island Remembered and Revisited A Celtic Spirituality Retreat will be held the weekend of **January 27- 29**, at the Redemptorist Retreat Center, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

Join us as Deacon Michael Cullen weaves stories of the pre-Christian Celts and ancient pagan rituals to a transformation of the people by St Patrick and the Gospel. Deacon Michael will compare St. Patrick to St. Paul and bring the ancient ritual into the context of today.

Registration Friday at 6:15pm. Orientation at 7:30pm. Concludes noon on Sunday. Cost \$ 220 includes room, board and materials

ENGAGED ??

A Wedding is a Day, A Marriage is a Lifetime

Motto for Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE)

Catholic Engaged Encounter in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is happy to offer a weekend retreat for Engaged Couples who are preparing for marriage. This retreat is a weekend shared by an engaged couple reflecting and discussing every aspect of a marriage relationship. Topics include, but not limited to, finances, sexuality/NFP, parenting, communication and spirituality. A team of three married couples and a priest will present the weekend. Perhaps, parents or grandparents could offer this to you as a wedding gift. The first weekend is April 20-22, 2012 at Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha. Please register online through the John Paul II Center website: www.johnpaul2center.org

Questions? Call Jenni Oliva (414) 758-2213 or email: olivaj@archmil.org Or John & Louise Vos – local coordinators for CEE (262-439-8559) or email: johnlouisevos@yahoo.com



**Monday, December 26 Parish Office Closed
School Closed until January 3**

**Send all emails to the parish office at
parish@stmattoc.org**

MEMO LINE...

It is important when writing a check to the parish or the school that you include where it is going on the memo line i.e :Scrip; tuition; lunch tickets, stewardship, etc. It will make it easier if there is any question about a check. Thank you.

Catholicism

**MPTV – Milwaukee PBS (Channels 10 & 36)
Channel 10 – Tuesdays, December 27 and
January 3 at 10pm; Channel 36 – Sundays,
December 25, January 1 and 8 at 8am**

Four episodes of *Catholicism*, a new film series on the Catholic Church, with Fr. Robert Barron will be shown on MPTV - Milwaukee PBS (channels 10 and 36). This series was filmed in over 50 locations in 15 countries and presents a rich, multimedia experience of the Catholic Faith. Throughout the journey, Fr. Barron explains what Catholics believe and why. You can find the full schedule for these episodes on MPTV's website – www.mptv.org.

Prayer at Christmas

Lord, on this Christmas Day, in the midst of the joy of our celebrations, help us recall what is truly important about this day. In the midst of opening presents, help us remember the love that each gift represents. In the midst of Christmas dinner, help us remember that you are the source of all life. In the midst of family gatherings, help us remember that you are the fullness of all joy. And in the midst of Christmas Mass, help us remember the supreme act of love, sacrifice, and humility that we celebrate on this Christmas day when your Son came as a helpless, unknown baby and grew to be the life and light of the world. Amen.

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Readings for the Week

Sunday:	Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/ Lk 2:1-14
Monday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/ Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday:	1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
Friday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 /Lk 2:22-40
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
Next Sunday:	Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21



Merry Christmas

Feliz Navidad



Frohliche
Weihnachten



To all Parishioners and Visitors:
the Staff at St. Matthew's Parish
wishes
you and your family a Blessed Christmas
and a New Year
filled with God's love, mercy and joy!

C U @ Mass in 2012!!!

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