

ST. MATT'S MATTERS

December 17, 2010

MISSION STATEMENT

As a Christian community of believers at St. Matthew School in Oak Creek, we declare our mission to be one in which we promote academic excellence by providing a high quality, Catholic education. Through value-centered education and spiritual nourishment we strive to meet the needs of our families. Our mission is to build a Catholic community where we encourage others to proclaim the Gospel with compassion and hope.

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

The days before Christmas are busy ones indeed as we prepare for the birth of the child, Jesus!

- We have continued to pray—
 - Classroom Advent prayer services took place during the week.
 - Students have been going to Confession with Father Pat throughout the Advent Season.
- We have prepared gifts for those dear to us—
 - St. Matthew purchased items at the Secret Santa's Gift Shop .
 - Student Council is sponsoring a "Giving Tree" to provide items for those in need.
 - Fifth grade visited Franciscan Villa and brought with them gifts and warm wishes for their senior citizen friends.
- We have decked the halls!
 - Eighth grade has prepared a beautiful Christmas message in the hallway near their classroom.
 - Second grade has created a paper mache manger scene, near the school office.
 - Christmas art fills the corridor.
- We have lifted our voices in song—
 - We have spent many classes practicing.
 - We will gather together, under the direction of Mr. Zaffiro, for two Christmas concerts.

The days of Advent are drawing to a close . . . "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas . . . everywhere you go."

Mrs. Barber

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, 12/18 – Safeguarding All of God's Family Session, 10:00 a.m.; Parish Reconciliation, 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, 12/21 – Christmas Program, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 12/22 – 11:20 A.M. DISMISSAL, Begin Christmas Break

Thursday, 12/23-Sunday, 1/2 – Christmas Vacation

Monday, 1/3 – School Resumes

THERE WILL NOT BE A NEWSLETTER OR FAMILY FOLDER NEXT WEEK BECAUSE OF THE SHORT SCHOOL WEEK AND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.

Dearest sisters and brothers in Christ,

*Grace, peace, mercy and much love to you from God our Heavenly Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.
Amen.*

Thank you, so much for your kind and most gracious gift of food for our food pantry. This is now the second year that All Saints has been the recipient. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to each and every one of you!

Your gift of non-perishable food goods will indeed be put to good use and will be used to feed hungry people right here in the Oak Creek and in the greater metropolitan area. Like all food pantries throughout the state we too, have seen a huge increase in the people needing food. The demand is greater today than it was a year ago. Your gift of food will go a long way in helping to feed hungry people. Please know of our sincere thanks. May you all be blessed, even as you have been such a tremendous blessing for others.

Rev. Jas A. Mortenson, Pastor, All Saints Lutheran Church - ELCA, Oak Creek, WI

ST. MATT'S HOLIDAY ORNAMENT – Last chance to order ornaments before Christmas. Show your St. Matthew Bulldog pride on your Christmas tree this year! This royal blue ball ornament features our beloved mascot, with the St. Matthew Bulldog logo, all written in gold. These collectibles are only \$5 each, which includes personalization if you wish. Place your order by Monday, December 20th, and you will have your ornament before Christmas break on Wednesday, December 22nd. A sample ornament can be found in the school. Any questions, contact Maggie McNeive at 414-764-7789.



SAFEGUARDING ALL OF GOD'S FAMILY – A session will be held at St. Matthew's in the cafeteria THIS Saturday, December 18th at 10:00 a.m. This is necessary for all adults who volunteer with children at St. Matthew's. This includes: coaches, scout leaders and anyone who chaperones any field trip. You only need to attend once. You may register on line at <http://www.archmil.org> Near the bottom of the page, "Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal" section, click on Safeguarding All Of God's Family (formerly known as Virtus), go to events and click on the appropriate session you wish to attend to register. Any questions, call Shelly at 414-762-4200, ext. 15.

FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – The Auction in November was a tremendous success. Thank you to all that were involved in making this event possible. The money raised by the auction will be used to purchase a playground addition, level readers for the younger grades and novels for middle school, smart boards and some of the money will be set aside for textbooks. We are now in need of volunteers for the next auction, and most importantly, one or two people to lead the auction committee. The auction has provided the school with many items that we might not otherwise have. This includes the current textbooks, which will be due for replacement in the next few years. A notice will be sent home after the Christmas break with more information. Please consider this worthy cause for your time and talent to help the school.

BULLDOG NEWS – The 6th grade Divine Mercy/St. Matt's girl's basketball team remains undefeated with a victory over St. Joe's in Big Bend with a score of 41-16. Way to go Bulldogs!

ARCHBISHOP LISTECKI SCHEDULED TO BE ON WTMJ MORNING NEWS PROGRAM - Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome ListECKi is reaching out to Catholics and non-Catholics alike via the radio waves. Beginning December 19, the archbishop will be a guest on WTMJ's Weekend Morning News program the "Sunday Sip." Archbishop ListECKi will tackle a number of topics on the show including Catholic education and the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, marriage, divorce and same-sex unions and the positive impact the Church has on communities throughout southeastern Wisconsin. The archbishop is scheduled for the Sunday Sip on the following dates: Keeping Christ in Christmas-December 19, 9:20 a.m.; New Year, New Leadership-January 2, 8:20 a.m., (just prior to Packer pre-game); Catholic Education-January 16, 9:20 a.m.; The Positive Impact of the Church-February 6, 9:20 a.m.; Marriage-February 20, 9:20 a.m.; and The Forty Days of Lent-March 6, 9:20 a.m. For more information visit www.archmil.org or www.620wtmj.com.

REFER-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

Refer a family to enroll their child/ren in St. Matthew's School and receive \$100 off next year's tuition.

Please share these important dates with friends and neighbors:

ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

During Catholic Schools Week

Sunday, January 30, 2011

Open House following 9:30 a.m. Mass (10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

or

Monday, January 31, 2011,

Please join us at the 9:15 a.m. All School Liturgy

Open House immediately following, 10:15-11:30 a.m.

If you are unable to attend these Open House opportunities, call the school office to schedule a tour.

REGISTRATION

Begins January 30th

SERVERS –	December 18	4:00 p.m.:	Rebecca Koronkowski	Cross:	Andi Sullivan
	December 19	7:30 a.m.:	Abby Lownik	Cross:	Amanda Horman
		9:30 a.m.:	Rachel Shawver	Cross:	Rachel Pogodzinski
	Christmas Eve	4:00 p.m.:	Danny Sievert	Cross:	Hannah Tezak
		6:00 p.m.:	Thomas Dolan	Cross:	Frank Margraff
	Christmas Day	7:30 a.m.:	Beck Apple	Cross:	Tanner Apple
		9:30 a.m.:	Shannon Dugan	Cross:	Joshua Duchniak
	December 26	7:30 a.m.:	Michael Silva	Cross:	Katalyna Bartek
		9:30 a.m.:	Rachel Chilson	Cross:	Thomas Dolan
	December 31	4:00 p.m.:	Amanda Czerwinski	Cross:	Abby Czerwinski
	January 2	7:30 a.m.:	Frank Margraff	Cross:	Hannah Tezak
		9:30 a.m.:	Colin McQuitty	Cross:	John Pintar

WE COLLECT – St. Matthew's School collects the following items to earn money and/or supplies: McDonald's receipts, empty HP ink/toner cartridges, General Mills box tops, Campbell's UPC codes, Kemps milk caps and labels, Golden Guernsey/ Morning Glory milk caps and cancelled postage stamps. It is helpful if you separate the items. They can be placed in the marked drawers in the plastic bin in the hallway outside of church or sent to the school office. In addition to these collection programs, the school also participates in the Pick 'n Save We Care Program as well as the Target Red Card program. Thank you for supporting our school.

Prayer First

"Allow yourself to feel rich without money."

WE WISH YOUR FAMILY A PEACEFUL, RELAXING HOLIDAY!



Prayer Square: *Heavenly Father, we rejoice in the gift of your only Son, made flesh in this child and offered to all peoples. Open our eyes to see your power and glory in your Son and may the wonder of his saving peace be on us and on all those we love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*