

St. Matthew Celebrates 170th Year

This year, 2011, marks the 170th Anniversary of St. Matthew Parish here in Oak Creek. Throughout the year, you can look forward to a series of "look back" articles in 'The Buzz' dealing our Parish's history at different periods over the last 170 years. This month, a brief overview of the founding of Saint Matthew:

In 1835 non-native Americans began farmsteading and in 1838 nine Irish immigrant families bought land in this area, which was then known as the "Irish Settlement". Earliest devotions were led by Fr. Patrick O'Kelley, the founder of the parish, and Fr. Thomas

Morrissey in the farm homes of John Flynn and Thomas Caveney. In 1841, a little log church was built. In 1843, John Flynn and James O'Herin each donated three acres of land to the parish, which they had bought directly from the government for \$1.25 an acre. Only a stagecoach road known as "Chicago Road" ran through the forest beside Lake Michigan.

As the log church became too small, construction of the present old brick church was begun in 1858 and completed in 1860. So as to not disturb worship during construction, the new church was built completely around, and actually enclosed, the existing log church.

By 1880, the parish had lost its sole Irish cast and was known as Irish-German. St. Matthew Parish was incorporated according to Wisconsin State Law in 1883. In 1916 when the parish celebrated its 75th anniversary, 84 families were members, about half of German descent, then Irish, and a scattering of Slavic families. By 1941, the parish had grown to 250 families with the Slovak



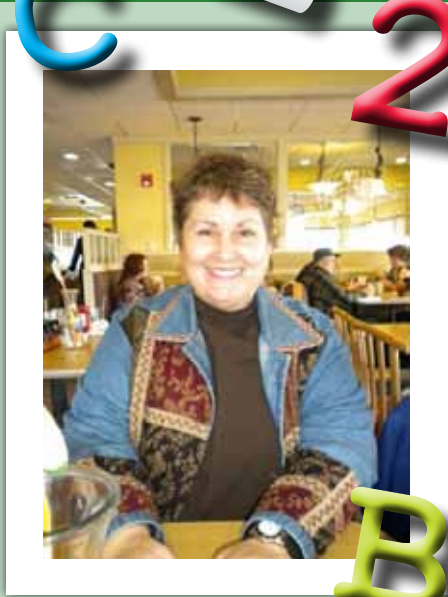
families being the second most populous group. In 2011, our parish now no longer represents any one group. We are a true melting pot of many backgrounds and heritages.

I hope you will enjoy the on-going series of articles dealing with Parish history that will surface in all 2011 editions of 'The Buzz'.

— Robert Tabern



St. Matthew Teacher Retires After 23 Years



On January 14, 2011, Mrs. Shari Reimer, who has been a teacher at Saint Matthew for more than two decades, retired. Mrs. Reimer began her teaching career in Reedsburg District Schools in 1973. She taught at Holy Family in Cudahy beginning in 1978, followed by a brief time at St. Adalbert Parish at 35th and Florist in Milwaukee. In 1987, Mrs. Reimer was hired on at Saint Matthew to be the 7th Grade teacher, but has worn many hats over the past 23 years. She has also served as the 2nd Grade teacher, 5K teacher, and most recently, the 4K teacher.

When Mrs. Reimer was in the 6th grade, she knew she wanted to be either a missionary or a teacher. She says, "I did not become a missionary and travel the world, but chose the path of teaching. I think being

a teacher at a Catholic school is really the best of both worlds because you teach children academic and life skills but can also teach them about the love of Jesus." Mrs. Reimer was born in New Albany, Indiana, lived in Lake County, Indiana, and graduated from Lowell High School in 1963. She moved to Wisconsin, attended Richland County College for two years, and went on to complete her formal education at the University of Wisconsin at Platteville. After getting re-married, Mrs. Reimer moved to the Milwaukee area in 1977.

As you would probably imagine, in 23 years, Mrs. Reimer has seen a lot of changes at St. Matthew Parish and School. She was hired by Sister Barbara and has been around for the administration of five different principals. St. Matthew's current principal, Julianna Barber says, "Mrs. Reimer is one of the most dedicated teachers we had. She was always caring and meant a lot to the students. We are all going to miss her greatly."

Of all the different grades that Mrs. Reimer taught, she says she enjoyed her time with the 4K students the most. Mrs. Reimer explains, "I loved all of my students, but the last few years that I have been part of the

4K program at Saint Matthew have been really special. It was a great way to wrap up my time teaching here. While I loved teaching the older students, there was just something special about teaching and playing with the 4K kids. Even though they are very young, they are learning lessons that will live on with them for life. One of the things that I tried to instill in them was integrity. I taught them that integrity means always do the right thing – even when no one is watching. Other important concepts at the 4K level are cooperation, sharing, and the importance of getting along with others. The most important thing to teach children at any grade level is to love one another, as Jesus taught us."

Even though Mrs. Reimer will be retiring, she will not become a stranger to us at Saint Matthew. Reimer plans to keep her condo in Oak Creek and be a substitute and continue assisting with the after school extended care program. She also hopes to spend a lot more time with her family now that she is not teaching, especially her two great-grandsons.

Thanks for 23 years of service and we look forward to seeing you around St. Matthew still!

FEBRUARY 2011 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		St. Vincent de Paul Meal Program 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Bear Den 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Parish Life Ministry 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Tiger Den 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM		First Friday Mass 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Religious Formation Preschool Class 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM YM Confirmation Class 10:30 AM - 12 PM	Religious Formation Grades 1-5 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Grades 6/7/8 Youth Ministry 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Girl Scout #1015 3:20 PM - 5:00 PM	Voices for Justice 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Women's Spirituality 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM		Dartball 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Holy Name 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Families of Faith 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Religious Formation Preschool Class 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Sandwich Sunday 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Children's Choir 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Grades 6/7/8 Youth Ministry 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Religious Formation Grades 1-5 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Grades 6/7/8 Youth Ministry 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Finance Committee 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Bible Study 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Adult Choir 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM		Children's Liturgy of the Word 5:00 PM - 5:45 PM
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Children's Liturgy of the Word 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM Grades 9/10 Youth Ministry 10:30 AM - 12 PM Children's Choir 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM	Religious Formation Grades 1-5 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Grades 6/7/8 Youth Ministry 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Parish Council Agenda 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Personnel Committee 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Adult Book Discussion 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Building & Grounds 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM		
27	28					
Families of Faith 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Religious Formation Preschool Class 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Children's Choir 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Grades 6/7/8 Youth Ministry 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Technology Committee 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Religious Formation Grades 1-5 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Grades 6/7/8 Youth Ministry 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Parish Council 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM					

'The Buzz' Looking For New Writers, Photographers

It's a New Year and St. Matthew's Parish newsletter, 'The Buzz' is currently looking for new writers and new people to help take pictures of Parish events. If you are interested in joining the Communications Committee, or just occasionally writing an article and taking pictures about things going on around the Parish, you are encouraged to contact Communications Committee Chairman Robert Tabern by e-mailing him at robert@rtabern.com. Any submissions about Parish church or school activities are more than welcome at anytime. Tabern says, "We are really in desperate need for more people to help write for 'The Buzz'. Taking a few minutes out to write an article for us is a great way for members on other committees and groups at St. Matthew to get the word out about what they are doing. It's a great way for people to get some publicity for their groups and to get the word out about upcoming fundraisers. I try and write as many articles a month as I have time for, but we could really use some others to jump in and write too. It's not really a big time commitment for people because you can attend the normal meetings and events you do now, and then just take 15 or 20 minutes out to write something up for us and send in a few pictures." Through arrangements with the publisher, 'The Buzz' has the potential to be up to a six page newsletter every month like the November and December 2010 editions were, however 'The Buzz' is often scaled back to just four, or even two pages, because of lack of submissions. There have also been months 'The Buzz' is not published at all because of lack of content. Tabern adds, "I would really like to get three or four more people who would be willing to do 5 or 6 articles a year for 'The Buzz', and then move on from there to explore other forms of new media that would help communicate all of the good going on at St. Matthew. A lot of people enjoy reading the stories in 'The Buzz' every month, but it's only as great as Parishioners help make it."

— Robert Tabern



St. Matthew Parish Buzz

Produced by the St. Matthew Communication Committee

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**Mrs. McDonald
& the 7th Grade Class**

Submit Photos, Stories or Story Suggestions to the Communication Committee at thebuzz@stmattoc.org or 414-764-9617