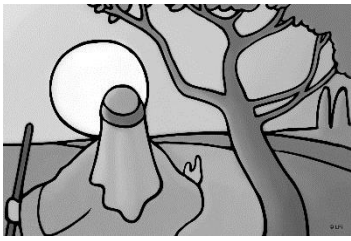


ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST PARISH



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'" - Mk 13:33, 37

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

Sat.	Dec.	2	5:00 pm – Dave O’Kane †
Sun.	Dec.	3	8:30 am – St. Matthew Families 10:30 am – Allen Matthew Wilson †

MASSES THIS WEEK

Tues.	Dec	5	9:00 am – St. Matthew Families
Wed.	Dec	6	9:00 am – Jack Doyle
Thur.	Dec	7	7:00 am – Sally Heinen †
Fri.	Dec.	8	9:00 am – Raquel Aguilar †

MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

Sat.	Dec.	9	5:00 pm – Charlie Baxley †
Sun.	Dec.	10	8:30 am – Robert Tomlinson † 10:30 am – St. Matthew Families

Communion Service Monday-Friday at 7:00am

MINISTRY SCHEDULE Dec. 9/10

	5pm	8:30am	10:30am
EMEs	JTracy	PBrennan	PBisping
	LGraczyk	MHoldcroft	PGallowayIII
	DGraczyk	CRuane	TKopp
Greeters	BWilliams	MLomax	MKlein
	SWilliams	PVeylupek	BStangler
Lectors	PBanks	RHoldcroft	VNiemann
	RWilliams	EJaneczko	CWray
Servers	CFlores	AAdams	SBartmess
	RFlores	MAdams	PReisz
Ushers	DHappe	DHarrington	APollack
	JReardon	JSteinauer	TMedara
	DShinbara	GStoiber	SBradford

If you cannot serve when you are scheduled, please call a *substitute*. *If you wish to be removed from the ministry list or the sub list, contact the parish office.*

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Altar Server Training is scheduled by contacting Phil McEvoy at prmcevoy@gmail.com or Dan Linder at dan@linder.org



MASS GREETERS NEEDED

Job Duties include: Smiling, greeting & handing out misselettes. All ages welcome! Contact the parish office. *No prior experience required.*

CALENDAR

RAFFLE WINNERS	Nov. 26	Eric Mjeldheim	\$50
	Nov. 27	Hannah Beaudoin	\$25
	Nov. 28	Jennifer Walters	\$25
	Nov. 29	Tim McDonald	\$25
	Nov. 30	Mary Marshall	\$25
	Nov special	Stephen Janeczko	\$25
	Dec 1	Harriet McLaughlin	\$25
	Dec 2	Lan Bannon	\$25

CONGRATULATIONS!

There is no need to call or “claim” your prize. Winnings will be automatically mailed out to you.

SCHEDULE FOR SECOND COLLECTIONS

All checks made out to St. Matthew

- Nov. 25/26 Campaign for Human Development
- Dec. 2/3 Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Shelter
- Dec. 9/10 Religious Retirement

FAITH DIRECT

In this season of Advent, we are continuously preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth. Why not help our own parish prepare for the coming new year by signing up with Faith Direct? By supporting St. Matthew the Evangelist, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season. Already using Faith Direct? Don't forget to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: NE489. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

DEC. 7 ~ VIGIL MASS 6:30 PM
DEC. 8 ~ HOLY DAY MASSES
9:00 AM & 6:30 PM

Sign up for ministries in the Commons.

24 HOUR EUCHARIST ADORATION

Adoration is held every FIRST FRIDAY of the month, from 8:00 am Fri. through 8:00 am Sat. Multiple people can attend each hour. If you would like to be a sub, sign up on the table outside of the Chapel. Contact is Phil McEvoy at 402-689-6457 or prmcevoy@gmail.com.



Nativity Blessing and Lighting

Please join the Knights and the St. Matthew community in the annual Light Up For Christ ceremony this Tuesday, 5 December at 6 PM, which is always a fun-filled evening! We'll meet in the Commons and process out as a group to participate in the ceremony led by Fr. Leo. Then, back to the Commons for cookies, hot chocolate, coffee, juice, and children's activities. Also making a special trip to the Commons will be Santa Claus and his elves. Who needs the Mall Santa and long lines when we'll have Jolly Old St. Nick visiting us? Please join us to kick off the Christmas season and spread the joyful tidings of Christmas! May God bless you all! We wish you and your families a blessed and Merry Christmas!



Knights of Columbus: Planning meeting is the first Monday each month; General Membership meeting is the third Monday each month. Meetings are at 7:00 pm in the lower level of the parish office. All Knights are invited and welcome to attend both meetings.

If you are interested in joining or want more information, please contact Tom Medara, our Membership Director, at 502-4989 or Pat Brennan, Grand Knight, at 402-592-5027.

† † † † † † † †

Need a ride to Church? Contact Butch Songcuan 402-933-1646

Health Care Items are available for loan from the Knights: wheelchairs, electric wheelchairs, walkers and crutches. If you have borrowed and no longer need, please return. If you have items you no longer need and would like to donate, contact Pat Brennan, Grand Knight, at 402-592-5027.

Columbian Squires Chief Counselor
Phil Earslev 402-214-7877

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ~ CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

It is time once again to celebrate the Christmas Season by joining your Brother Knights and spouses for an evening of great food, entertainment and fellowship on Thursday, Dec. 14 at the South Omaha Council 3019 Council Hall. Social hour is at 6 pm, followed by dinner at 6:45 pm. Please RSVP to Dave Boone at 402-291-1493 or dbruceb1@gmail.com by NLT Tuesday, December 5 with your menu choices. (NOTE: Menu choices will be sent out via email.)



WWG (WOMEN WORKING FOR GOD)

Our annual Christmas Brunch will be held on Dec. 2. Please sign up at the WWG table in the Commons.

GIVING TREE ~ FOR THE WOMEN'S SHELTER

Please take a minute to visit the Giving Tree located at the WWG Table in the Commons. If you are able to, please take an ornament and return the suggested gift, unwrapped, by 11:30am on Dec. 17th.

SCRIP/MATT'S MONEY

Last weekend's rebate: \$142

Scrip rebates not designated to a school or CCD student will now solely benefit our Building Fund. If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer; stop at our Scrip table after Mass, see our website or contact Samantha Elbert at 515-341-5041.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

If your family would like to participate in lighting the Advent candles before mass—please sign up on the table in the Commons.



"AS FOR THE SEED THAT FELL ON RICH SOIL, THEY ARE THE ONES WHO EMBRACE THE WORD AND BEAR MUCH FRUIT THROUGH PERSEVERANCE" MAGNIFICAT

Upon This Rock
Campaign Update
November 28, 2017

Pledge Total	\$1,534,219.12
Cash Received	\$83,570
# of Pledges	157

\$100,000 Matching Gift Challenge
New or increased pledges made between Dec. 1-22, will be matched dollar-for-dollar by a generous parish family. If a new pledge card or packet is needed, please call Patsy or Paula in the parish office.

If you have not received a campaign packet, please call or stop by the parish office.



ROSARY BEFORE MASS

We are elated with the wonderful turnout for the rosary from our parish family and will plan to continue the rosary before all masses, *whenever possible*, as our rosary leaders are few in numbers. We would love to have more volunteers join our team! If you are interested in leading the rosary before mass, contact Paula Banks at plbanks@archomaha.org.

**WELCOMING COMMITTEE
SUB-CHAIR NEEDED**

We are still in need of a parish couple to volunteer to head the Welcoming Committee. This can be a highly satisfying position as you (and your team) meet new parish members and make them feel welcomed to the St Matthew community. Several parishioners have volunteered to serve on this committee but we need someone to provide the leadership. If interested in this critical position, please notify the Admin. Office or send an e-mail to ronhall43@cox.net. St Matthew has a game plan that includes a number of welcoming ideas but we need a couple to lead the effort. It can be a rewarding experience.



SAVE THE DATE

We are long overdue for a parish photo directory. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate next March 5th-10th. All participating families will receive a free 8 x 10 photo and a photo directory. *More information to come soon.*

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Every 1st Sunday of the month free blood pressure screenings will be offered following 8:30am mass in the Commons.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

SCRIPTURE STUDY WITH DEACON DEALL WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Deacon Tom Deall is again facilitating the adult education Scripture study, 6:30 – 7:30 pm. It is held every Wednesday in lower level of the parish office. All are welcome!

SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER ("VESPERS")

Vespers are held every Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel. Evening Prayer is one part of the Church's Liturgy of the Hours. Through the Liturgy of the Hours, the people of God sanctify the day by continual praise of God and prayers of intercession for the needs of the world. For more information, contact Deacon Mark White (mhwhite@archomaha.org or 402 292-7928).

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Ephesians: Discover Your Inheritance. Meets from 5 to 6:30pm. Paul's letter to the Ephesians reveals many remarkable gifts that we as Christians are given in the Church. This 8-part Bible study, narrated by Jeff Cavins, will enrich your faith, and show you how to live it out.

Free pizza and "refreshments". Meets in the 8th grade class room here at St Matthew's. Sign up list is on the Knight's Table in the Commons or contact Rick Holdcroft, 402-350-4097

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

Our parish's next monthly peaceful prayer vigil for life is Thursday, December 14, from 10:00 - 11:00am. We meet at the abortion clinic in Bellevue at 1002 W Mission Ave. If you can sacrifice any other time, please pray at the clinic Wed - Sat, when the clinic is open. Our prayers and presence at the clinic do make a difference!! Contact Kevin and Janice Todd at 402-871-4699 or janicetoddcmc@msn.com if you have any questions or would like a prayer booklet to guide your hour of prayer.

PARISH CONSECRATION

Please join us Friday, December 8, at the 6:30pm Mass for the very special occasion of our parish's consecration. Father Leo will be consecrating the parish to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and several of our parishioners will consecrate themselves to Jesus through Mary after completing a 33-day preparation program.

FORMED.ORG

Check out one of the many great programs, books, movies and audio talks to enrich your Advent preparation for Christmas. Below are just a few suggestions. Click on the "Search" tab and enter "Advent" to see more items available.

Program - Opening the Word (a program offering prayer and insights for the Sunday Readings of Advent)

Book - Mary, God's Yes to Man

Movie - Nicholas (Animated, great for families)

Audio Talks - Journey Through Advent; Prepare the Way of the King

Visit FORMED.org. Click on the "Learn" tab for more information about the website. Then click on "Register" to sign up for FREE using the St. Matthew Parish code: TGQQ66

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

Registration for the St. Matthew **December 16, 2017** Initial/Expired **Safe Environment (SE) training** session is available at the website: <http://archomaha.org/ministries/safe-environment/training/>. The training session will be from 9:00a to 11:30a. It will be in the Cardinal Spellman Room (Parish Administration Building Lower Level). The website has registration instructions, but please contact Deacon Mark if you have any questions.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAMILY-BASED CATECHESIS.

The next RE/FBC session will be on *Wednesday, December 6th*, from 6:30-7:45p.m. All parishioners are invited to attend the adult catechesis session in the Worship Area. This month's topic is God's plan unfolding with our Holy Mother Mary--the Annunciation, the Immaculate Conception, and the Incarnation.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY MOVIE.

All are invited to join the RE/FBC families for snacks and the family movie "The Promise: Birth of the Messiah" which will be **following the Saturday, December 2nd, 5 p.m. Mass** in the Worship area. This fun and faith-filled movie is appropriate for the entire family and lasts for approximately 45 minutes. At the beginning of this Advent season, get the entire family anticipating the celebration of the birth of our Lord!

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

For enrollment and tuition information visit:

www.stmatthewbellevue.net

We are AdvancED and NCEA accredited! We also offer small classes, individual attention and a faith filled environment for your children. ***Did You Know?*** If your child transfers into St. Matthew School from a local non-Catholic school, your family could be eligible for \$1000 off tuition for the first year and \$500 off the second year. This applies to students in grades 1 - 7 in classes that have openings. Check out our school, you're already here for Mass anyway!

HYVEE RECEIPTS

PTO is again collect receipts from HyVee. Last year they earned \$79.32. The receipts collected must have dates between September 1 and December 31, 2017 to qualify to earn money for PTO.

AMAZON SMILE!

We have received a donation of \$60.03 from your purchases between July 1-Sept. 30.

Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchase price to St Matthew when you shop through smile.amazon and select St. Matthew as your designated charity OR just use this direct link every time you shop. <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-0800122>

CALLING ALL KNITTERS/CROCHETERS "ST MATT'S BABY HATS"



Volunteer knitters and crocheters are needed for two local community projects to knit/crochet hats for newborns and babies. If interested, contact Mary Fran Williamson at mfw822@hotmail.com for more information contact Mary Fran Williamson at mfw822@hotmail.com for more information.

SVDP FURNITURE NEEDED

A St. Vincent de Paul client with young children, in our neighborhood, is in need of the following items for his apartment: couch, love seat, one end table, kitchen table and chairs. If you can help, please contact Beth at 402-212-4208.

PARISH DIRECTORY

If you would like to receive the parish directory, contact us with your current email address. Please note that our system will only allow us to send to **one primary email address** per family. If you would like to change your primary email address, or your family's information, email us at stmatthew.bel@archomaha.org.

The directory is intended for the use of St. Matthew Parishioners only and shall not be used for solicitation, preparation of mailing lists or "for profit" activities.

ARCHDIOCESE ANNUAL APPEAL THANK YOU!

Each of us is called to respond in faith, knowing and trusting that God recognizes your willingness to live out the message of the Gospel. To date, our parish has raised \$33585.00 for the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Our goal is 33,275.29. You can either mail in your gift intention envelope or make a gift online at give.archomaha.org. Thank you for opening your hearts to the love of God and allowing the Lord to increase in your lives.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE

A family in our parish has graciously loaned us a statue of Our Lady of Fatima. The statue has been a part of their family for over 30 years, has traveled to many members of the family in times of need, as well as to many parishes throughout the country. Many prayers have been answered! You may sign out the statue from the Parish Office M-F from 9am-12pm or 1pm-4:00pm. If this is not convenient, please contact Phil McEvoy at prmcevoy@gmail.com or 402-689-6457 to arrange pickup.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

We are half way there. With the donations this past week, our yearly donations to the local food bank has reached 5,000 pounds. That is half way to our 10,000 goal for the year. The last few weeks have seen a large increase in donations. Recently the PTO ran a Spirit Wear Day and collected 98 pounds in one day. It is wonderful that even with the New Church being on the minds of our community that we continue to give generously to those in need. Thanks to everyone for your kindness.

HOLY LAND OLIVE ART

December 9/10 the Holy Land Olive Wood Art will be for sale before and after all Masses. The Holy Land Catholic are known worldwide for their Olive wood carvings. Generations of Catholics have been able to support their families in the Holy Land through their carvings. The Olive tree is an ancient symbol of Peace, wisdom, glory, power and pureness. The olive tree and olives are mentioned over 30 times in the Bible. Darker wood from these olive trees is said to be from the time of Christ. There are many beautiful items: crosses, statues, picture frames, just to mention a few.

"THE PATHWAY TO OUR CHURCH"

COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS

(AN ONGOING FUNDRAISER)

We, the parishioners of St. Matthew, are the foundation of OUR Church. As noted in our prayer said together at the end of Mass, we must commit our hearts, minds and finances to the spirit and actual structure of OUR Church.

One fund-raising opportunity is the sale of these bricks. The bricks, available for \$100 each, will be used to build the actual *Pathway to OUR Church*. In the meantime, they'll be used to line the sidewalks leading into our current church. When the time comes, they will be moved to the pathway.

On each brick you can make a dedication to your family, your marriage, your children or in memory of a loved one who rests in peace. It's your brick and it's your choice of words.

Forms to purchase a brick are available in the Commons, parish and school offices, online and periodically in the bulletin. Simply fill out the form, pay the \$100 fee and be a part of OUR Pathway, OUR church family and OUR History and, most importantly, OUR future!

You may also order a brick by clicking the link on our website: stmatthewbellevue.org

May God bless you and may God continue to bless St. Matthew Parish, school and families.

ATTN: ST. MATTHEW COMMITTEES

Please take some time to review the information posted on our website for your committee.

<http://www.stmatthewbellevue.org/Organizations>

For any changes/additions on your page, or to have your events/flyers placed on the "UPCOMING EVENTS" section of the website please email: plbanks@archomaha.org.

For bulletin publications, send to:

stmatthew.bel@archomaha.org

Deadline for upcoming weekend bulletin is Tuesday at noon. Please note that all submitted items may be edited, as space permits.

To schedule a meeting on campus, please view the "Calendar of Events" on our website for availability and then contact the Parish Office to schedule your meeting.

<http://www.stmatthewbellevue.org/Calendar-of-Events>

WANT TO BE NOTIFIED WHEN A NEW BULLETIN IS POSTED ONLINE?

Visit our website: stmatthewbellevue.org, select *Weekly Bulletin* and click the *Parishes Online* link at the bottom of the page OR use this direct link:

<http://www.parishesonline.com/find/st-matthew-the-evangelist>

Be sure the church listed is St. Matthew.... Then click "View Page" and the "Subscribe" button in the upper right corner of the *recent publications* section. Please note: you will be notified by email when a new cover is downloaded by Liturgical Publications (approx. monthly), as well as for our weekly bulletin information. You can view/download up to the last 12 publications. *If you need help, please call the office and have your email address handy, we will be happy to help you!*

