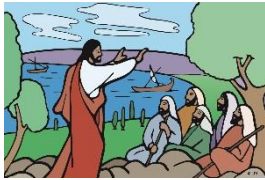


ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST PARISH



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

Sat. Feb. 17 5:00 pm – Helen Hornick †
Sun. Feb. 18 8:30 am – St. Matthew Families
10:30 am – Vernon L. Osborn †

MASSES THIS WEEK

Tues. Feb. 20 9:00 am – Forget Family
Wed. Feb. 21 9:00 am – William Peter †
Thur. Feb. 22 9:00 am – Maureen Piontek
Fri. Feb. 23 9:00 am – Don Cheairs †

MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

Sat. Feb. 24 5:00 pm – Katherine Klein †
Sun. Feb. 25 8:30 am – Pat Bantner †
10:30 am – St. Matthew Families

NOTICE: LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Ministry Schedules will be emailed out to all ministers beginning with the February/March cycle. If you do not have an email on file with us, and would like to receive a copy via email, please contact the parish office at stmatthew.bel@archomaha.org. *The schedule will still be posted on our website, and hardcopies will be available in the Commons.* 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 prncevoy@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.*

SCHEDULE FOR SECOND COLLECTIONS

All checks made out to St. Matthew

February 18 Utilities

February 25 Black & Indian Mission helps to offer grants to dioceses across the country to operate schools, parishes, and other missionary services that build the Body of Christ in Native American, Alaska Native, and Black Catholic communities.

March 4 St. Vincent DePaul

March 11 Catholic Relief Services

Lenten Schedule

Stations of the Cross & Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Tuesdays 6pm Chapel

Thursdays 2:30pm (with school children)

Reconciliation

Wednesdays 6pm & Saturday 4:00 pm

Sundays following 10:30am mass

FAST AND ABSTINENCE LAWS

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, which lasts until Holy Thursday, the Mass of the Last Supper when we enter the Holy Triduum. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are permitted to consume only one full meal, which may be supplemented by two smaller meals, which together should not equal the full meal. Many Catholics will go beyond the minimum obligations demanded by the Church and undertake a complete fast or a bread and water fast. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are also days of abstinence from meat, as are all Fridays in Lent. Many Catholics continue fasting during the whole of Lent, as was the Church's traditional requirement, concluding only after the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

We sincerely hope you plan to be a part of our upcoming photo directory. Schedule your session today at stmatthewbellevue.org in the 'upcoming events' section.

Photography Sessions

Sat. March 3 ~ 12-7pm

Sun. March 4 ~ 1-7pm

Mon.-Thur. March 5-8th ~ 2-9pm

All photo sessions will take place in the Commons and all participating families will receive a free 8 x 10 photo and a free photo directory.

You may also schedule your appt. at this link:

<https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y8b3g6m2/>

Sign up today after mass and
be entered for a chance to win
a \$50 gift certificate.

We are in need of hosts/hostesses for photography days as well as individuals to help with after mass sign-ups. If you can help, please email plbanks@archomaha.org.

Going to be out of town during these dates? Pick up a "Visitor Card" from the table in the Commons, to schedule your appointment in another location. Use Acct. # 433327. You may also submit your own photo for a \$10 fee.



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



WWG (WOMEN WORKING FOR GOD)

Fish Fry Time! We welcome donated desserts.

Drop off in the kitchen any time Friday – 7:30

am or drop off at our dessert table. Next meeting will be Tues., Feb. 27 at 6:30pm in the Cardinal Spellman Room in Administration Building. *Please note the time change.*

SCRIP/MATT'S MONEY

Last Week's Rebate: \$98.51

Scrip rebates not designated to a 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.

A GLANCE AT PARISH FINANCES.

(Look for this heading in future bulletins to stay abreast of the St Matthew financial status.)

This is the first year St Matthew has had a monthly budget to compare to actual revenues and expenses each month. This allows monitoring financial progress more closely. The Parish has a long history of “deferred maintenance” because the Sunday collections never provided enough funds to do preventative maintenance. And many of our buildings are over 50 years old. Normally we wait until something breaks and then panic to find funds to do band aid fixes. Because this is no way to run an operation, the Finance Council raised the 2017-18 fiscal budget for maintenance from \$25,000 to \$40,500 in hopes of addressing the issue. Unfortunately, half way through the year (Dec 2017), we have spent \$39,255 of the \$40,500 budget. As a parishioner of St Matthew, would you prayerfully consider contributing \$2 - \$5 more each week, so the Parish can start to address these very real maintenance needs? Thank you.



"My soul give thanks to the LORD, all my being, bless his holy name." Cantic of Zechariah

Total Pledges: 261

Total Pledged: \$2,346,731

Total Collected: \$511,604.53

WELCOMING SUB-COMMITTEE

Long time parishioners, Angie & Dan Lohaus, have stepped up to be the Chairpersons of our “new” Welcoming Sub-Committee. In anticipation of the number of new members joining St Matthew as our church is built, we want to roll out the welcome mat to each and every new person who walks through the doors. The Welcoming Team will make initial calls to new members and ensuring they have a friendly face to greet them before or after Masses. You might be a “sponsor person/couple” to answer questions about St Matthew or simply be a new parish friend. Join our team now and contribute to maintaining our reputation as a welcoming community. This will be a rewarding experience for you as you present a “face of St Matthew” to each new parishioner. Contact Angie or Dan, the Office, or e-mail Ron Hall @ ronhall43@cox.net to join or find out more about the Sub-Committee.



REGISTRATION FOR THE 2018-2019

SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS MARCH 1

For enrollment and tuition information visit:

www.stmatthewbellevuene.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 1st through 7th.

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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION – NEW

Join us as we continue the Hearts Afire Parish-based program with the book *The 'One Thing' Is Three: How the Most Holy Trinity Explains Everything* by Fr. Michael Gaitley. "The One Thing is Three is written for everyone. The conversational tone has an appeal that invites the reader into the journey of life. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves the Church and seeks a deeper understanding of her teachings. Filled with references to Vatican II and Pope John Paul II, this book will enrich your belief in God's plan of salvation, and your love of the Most Holy Trinity." It is "written simply and clearly and brings the profound truths of the faith from head to heart to life in a way that makes deep theology easy to understand and even easier to live." This is a 10-week program. Classes will be on Mon OR Thurs, 6:30 – 8:00pm, in the school library (Bldg 2) OR Wed, 9:30 – 11:00am, at Thanksgiving Lutheran Church (child care provided for a small donation). Classes will begin the week of March 5. Cost for the book is \$5. Discussion questions from the retreat companion will be provided. Please contact Kevin and Janice Todd at 402-871-4699 or janicetoddcmc@msn.com to register by Tuesday, Feb 20, or if you have any questions. Visit www.allheartsafire.org to learn more about the Hearts Afire program. No prior Bible Study experience necessary. All are welcome!

SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER

Please join us for Sunday Evening Prayer liturgy in praise of God and for the intentions of St. Matthew's parishioners. The liturgy includes Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration, Benediction, and Evening Prayer. It begins in the chapel at 5 p.m. and concludes with Evening prayer finishing about 6 p.m. If you have any questions or inputs, please contact Deacon Mark."

SCRIPTURE STUDY WITH DEACON DEALL

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

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

Please mark your calendar for our next monthly prayer vigil on Friday, March 9, from 10:00 - 11:00am. We meet at the abortion clinic in Bellevue at 1002 W Mission Ave. The spring **40 Days for Life** campaign started on Ash Wednesday and continues through Palm Sunday, March 25. The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40-day campaign of prayer, fasting, and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God's favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion." Please consider praying for an hour at the abortion clinic in Bellevue or at Planned Parenthood in Omaha during this campaign. Plan on joining us on Friday, March 2, for our St. Matthew sponsored prayer day. We will pray from 8am – 8pm. Visit 40daysforlife.com to learn more and to sign up for the daily devotional during the campaign. 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.

Intercessions for Life *In this Lenten season, may God show us the way of compassionate respect for all human life; We pray to the Lord:*

Words of Life *"Many parents want perfect children. Our culture is obsessed with perfection—a superficial perfection. Photos are airbrushed, and social media sites depict seemingly perfect lives. God calls us to seek perfection, too. He does not call us, however, to perfection of appearance or abilities, but to perfection in love."*

FORMED.ORG

FORMED.org for Lent Enrich your Lenten journey with many of the faith formation materials available at your fingertips for FREE. Find programs, audio presentations, movies and eBooks from trusted partners like the Augustine Institute, St. Paul Center, Ignatius Press and others. Here are just a few suggestions:

Program – A Lent to Remember: A Lenten Encounter with Mercy

Book – Meditations for Lent


Movie – Symbolon: Knowing the Faith (Session 6: The Paschal Mystery)

Audio Talks – My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent

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.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

OCT. 30 – NOV. 8, 2018 • 10 DAYS (FROM OMAHA)



Please join
Deacon Tom Deall
spiritual leader
**St. Matthew Catholic
Church Bellevue**
for this faith-filled Pilgrimage
\$3,899 advance booking \$3,825

Brochure contact
Patti Gardner 478.808.8067
email: walkhisland@outlook.com

visit: www.walkhisland.com complete itinerary

ADULT FAITH FORMATION FOR LENT

Join us for a six-week program based on the best-selling book *33 Days to Merciful Love* by Fr. Michael Gaitley. "Sharing new material on the heart of St. Therese of Lisieux's Little Way, Fr. Gaitley uncovers the power of trust in the face of personal darkness, inspires viewers to become great saints amid ordinary circumstances, and lays the foundation for a personal consecration to Divine Mercy." We will meet on Saturdays, March 3 – April 7, from 8:00 – 9:30am in the Library (Bldg 2). Participants will make their consecration on Sunday, April 8, Divine Mercy Sunday. Cost for the book is \$15; optional participant packets are available for \$15. Please contact Kevin and Janice Todd at 402-871-4699 or janicetoddcmc@msn.com to register by Tuesday, Feb 20, or if you have any questions. No prior Bible Study experience necessary. All are welcome!

"MERCY AND MARY" LENTEN SERIES - DIVINE MERCY 101 this Tuesday, February 20, 6:45 – 8:15 in the Library (Bldg 2) - *Divine Mercy 101* starts with the basics and provides a clear and concise overview of Divine Mercy and the role and mission of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, the apostle of Divine Mercy whom St. John Paul II called "a gift of God to our time." Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, gives this dynamic presentation from the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA. Following the DVD we will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with the words of St. Faustina. Please bring your Rosary.

Do You Want to Fast this Lent?

*Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.*



DINNERS HAVE BEGUN

The Knights of Columbus will be serving dinner on the following Fridays during Lent - February 23 as well as March 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 5:00 to 7:00pm. You are seated and served – no standing in line!

Serving the following Choices

MAIN DISH:

- Baked Cod, Fried Cod or Fried Shrimp
- Weekly Chef's Special (e.g., salmon)
- Cheese Pizza
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Tortellini with Marinara Sauce

SIDE DISHES:

- Baked Potato or French Fries, Bread & Coleslaw *included with your meal.*

DRINKS:

- Lemonade, Water and Coffee *included with your meal.*
- Pay as you go bar with sodas / adult beverages.

DESSERT:

- Available from our Women Working with God group.

\$10 - Adults

\$5 - Children (12 & under).

\$12 - Weekly Chef's Specialties

Discounted rates for large families.

CARRY-OUTS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE

DESSERTS NEEDED FOR FISH FRYS

We encourage all members of our parish to help fill our dessert tables for the six Fridays of Lent. Sign up on the WWG table in the Commons and bring your favorite desserts to the kitchen between 7am and 5pm on Friday. Your donations will be greatly appreciated. The WWG staffs the table and the free will donations are used for parish and community charities.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS FOR FISH FRYS

As the Lenten Season approaches, so do the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry's. We rely and welcome the participation of our Parish young people in these events, but with the following requirements: - Children working as servers need to be in grade 6 or above - Children should be prepared to work for the entire service period and be at St Matthew by 4:30pm (with their signed parental permission slip) to receive instructions and be ready to go before 5:00pm - Servers should be appropriately dressed -- closed toed shoes, pants, and a shirt. No gym clothes. Permission forms will be sent home with every 6th-8th Grade St. Matthew and CCD student. Forms will also be available at the Fish Fry's for parental signature. This year's Fish Fry's will be on February 16 and 23 as well as March 2, 9, 16 and 23.

PALMS

Do you have palms from previous years that are dried and brittle? Bring them to church and place them in the box in the Commons under the WWG table.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

This past quarter (Oct 1 – Dec 31) our 138 households have earned St. Matthew \$717.09.

To participate in the Baker's Community Rewards program. Go to: www.bakersplus.com/communityrewards

1. Sign in to your online account, or create a new account if needed;
2. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to "Community Rewards";
3. Click on "Enroll Now";
4. Enter 71120 and select "St. Matthew"

You may also call: 866-221-4141 to enroll your card.

WOMEN'S RETREAT OPPORTUNITY

The Cloisters on the Platte would like to invite the women of St Matthew's parish to an upcoming retreat September 20-23. For more information go to the website cloistersontheplatte.com. To register please contact Darla Koch at 402-618-2598 or darlajkoch@yahoo.com



CSW FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

What a wonderful example!!! The combined efforts of the St. Matthew community during the last three weeks culminating in Catholic Schools Week collected 1,370 pounds of food.

This raises our total for 2017-2018 to 8,042 pounds of food donated to the hungry in our community. A special thanks to Teresa Metzger and her PTO helpers for guiding this latest effort, the 5th grade class for setting it up for the picture and boxing it up, and the 8th grade class for delivering the donation to the Bellevue Food Bank.

We are less than 2,000 pounds from our annual goal, and still have 4 months to go! If you would like to assist with this program, contact Scott Eversole at 402-216-1508.

SILENT AUCTION UPDATE

Many of you have already bid and won items in the new Silent Auction program. If you have not, please take a look at the auction table in the Commons. While we may target some projects with funds in the future, all proceeds are currently going directly to the Capital Campaign. Just since we reopened the auction in December we have raised close to \$1,000 and there are many more items coming to auction soon. *Please remember to include your Phone Number on the bid form; it makes it much easier to notify winners quickly.*

If you would like to donate to the auction, please contact Scott Eversole at sreversole@schools.archomaha.org

CALLING ALL KNITTERS/CROCHTERS



Since August volunteers have made approximately 246 baby hats for NICU!!

More hands are always welcome! 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.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE

A family in our parish has graciously loaned us a statue of Our Lady of Fatima. It has been a part of their family for over 30 years, has traveled to many members of the family in times of need and many prayers have been answered! You may sign out the statue from the Parish Office M-F from 9-4. Or contact Phil McEvoy at prmcevoy@gmail.com or 402-689-6457.

"THE PATHWAY TO OUR CHURCH" COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS

(AN ONGOING FUNDRAISER)

*The next brick order will be placed in early Spring.
Still plenty of time to get your order in!*

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

