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## Our Stewardship Mission Statement

*Centered in the Eucharist,  
stewardship as a way of  
life nourishes our love of  
God through Jesus Christ  
under the guidance of  
the Holy Spirit and calls  
each one of us in this  
faith community to make  
an annual commitment  
to our own spiritual  
growth by sharing our  
God-given gifts of time,  
talent, and treasure.*

## Rejoicing in Stewardship...

A letter to St. Matthew Parishioners  
from Msgr. Merdian



Dear Parishioners:

God has given us many gifts. How do we use them? How do we commit them to the service of the Lord and our brothers and sisters in our parish and community? We are asked to daily recommit ourselves to being good stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us and to share our time, talent, and treasure as a sign of the love and gratitude we have for Him. Our gratitude for these many gifts can be expressed through our prayer, worship, offerings, and action. We return our obligation of time with our commitment of prayer, our obligation of talent with our commitment to ministry, and our obligation of treasure with our commitment of monetary donations. By returning a portion of what we receive, we are embracing stewardship as a way of life.

This year, as a way of truly living stewardship, St. Matthew Parish committed 1% (approximately \$13,000) of our Sunday donations to Children of Hope and Faith. This is a non-profit organization, started by Fr. Johndamaseni Zilimu, that helps orphans and needy children in Tanzania.

Accompanying this letter, you will find a Reflection Guide and Stewardship Commitment Form. Please take some time to read the enclosed, reflect, and pray on the gifts God has provided you, and determine how you plan to share these gifts to serve others through our parish. Please pray that our hearts will be open to the possibility of giving more of ourselves and our treasure to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your gift of yourself. We are the Church, and together we will build up God's kingdom on earth and answer His call to **Stewardship** as a *way of life*. May God bless you for sharing your gifts.

In the peace of Christ,

**Monsignor Mark J. Merdian**

### Use this Guide to do the following:

- † Discover how God may be calling you and your family
- † Learn new ways to expand your practice of stewardship
- † Complete and return the stewardship commitment form (insert)



## Regularly Scheduled Parish Worship and Prayer Opportunities

### Mass:

- Saturday Evening Vigil Mass: 5:15 p.m.
- Sunday Masses: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5:15 p.m.
- Monday-Saturday: Daily Morning Mass: 7:00 a.m.
- Monday-Thursday: Daily Evening Mass: 5:30 p.m.

### Reconciliation:

- Saturday 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday 6:30 - 6:55 a.m.
- Thursday 6:30 - 6:55 a.m. and 5:00 - 5:25 p.m.
- Thursday before first Friday 4:30 - 5:25 p.m.

### Rosary:

- 6:20 a.m. Monday through Saturday before Mass
- 5:00 p.m. Wednesday before Mass

### The Chaplet of Divine Mercy & Rosary:

- 2:30 p.m. Sundays (held at church)

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena:

- Following 5:30 p.m. Mass on Tuesdays

### First Saturday Devotion:

- Following 7:00 a.m. Mass first Saturday of every month
- A procession with songs & prayers to Our Lady of Fatima.

### Holy Hour for Vocations:

- Thursday before first Friday 4:30-5:30 p.m. (held at church)

### Stations of the Cross:

- Fridays during Lent at 5:30 p.m.

### Advent Vespers:

- Sundays during Advent at 7:00 p.m.

### Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration:

- 24 hours, every day (Eucharistic Adoration Chapel of St. Matthew)

So many choices! Lord, what would you have me do? Begin with prayer and worship!

Encounter Jesus first and foremost in the Mass and Sacraments. Then continue to build that relationship through various types of prayer and worship, many are listed above. One of the most intimate opportunities for worship is through Eucharistic Adoration. To plan your weekly meeting with Our Lord in adoration, call the Parish Office (359-4224) or email [adoration@stmatt.net](mailto:adoration@stmatt.net). He will let you know how He wants you to use your gifts to glorify Him.

## Treasure

Annually, we are asked to review our commitment for the upcoming fiscal year. This is an instrument of planning for both the parish and each member of the Body of Christ. You are asked, as a parish member, to participate in this process with the heart of Jesus.

Below are reflections when praying about your commitment of treasure:

- Is my gift part of the family budgeting process?
- Is my gift proportionate to the blessings I have received from God?
- Is my gift going to require at least a small sacrifice that may require a change of lifestyle?
- Is my gift a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for laying down His life so that I may have eternal life?

Please also remember that an endowment to St. Matthew Roman Catholic Congregation is a wonderful way to practice good stewardship. For additional information, contact a member of the Finance Council or the Parish Office.

You may be interested to know that St. Matthew now offers online giving for parishioners who prefer to donate through automatic draft or credit card. Online giving is a secure and personalized way to give to our parish and school. It can be totally anonymous, is extremely flexible, and connects directly to a secure online giving site. For more information or to sign up for online giving please visit our website at [www.stmatt.net](http://www.stmatt.net).

As you reflect on your many blessings, begin by asking the Lord for guidance and trust in Him.

*"Everyone must give according to what he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver."*  
(2 Corinthians 9:7)

## LITURGY

### Altar Servers

Boys and girls from sixth grade through high school have the opportunity at St. Matthew to assist the priests at parish liturgies as altar servers. A reverent demeanor and a conscientious commitment to serving assignments are essential attributes of a server.

**Contact:** Loretta Oakley, 359-4224, loakley@stmatt.net

### Lectors

The Sacred Scriptures are an essential part of the liturgy. Therefore, the ministry of lector requires not only good public speaking skills, but also a desire to proclaim the Word of God with reverence and conviction. Lectors must be confirmed Catholics living in communion with the Church. At St. Matthew, two separate schedules of lectors provide service to the weekend and weekday Masses.

**Contact:** Loretta Oakley, 359-4224, loakley@stmatt.net

### Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (EMEs) have the sacred privilege and responsibility of assisting the priests of St. Matthew Parish in the distribution of Holy Communion. Those who serve in this ministry do so upon invitation of the pastor. After completing the training, extraordinary ministers are commissioned and generally serve twice a month.

**Contact:** Loretta Oakley, 359-4224, loakley@stmatt.net

### Sacristans

Sacristans are asked to assist the priest in the care of the sacristy, the altar, the sacred vessels, and other items used at each weekend Mass. They make a commitment to be at their assigned Mass on a regular basis to assist the priest in setting up and preparing for each Mass. It is a way of increasing one's knowledge, love, and devotion of the Mass and to make sure that all weekend Masses lift the hearts and minds of the people to God.

**Contact:** Msgr. Merdian, 359-4224, msgrmerdian@stmatt.net

### Ushers

The ushers provide an invaluable service in maintaining order and direction as well as welcoming visitors and newcomers to Mass on Sundays and holy days. They also collect the offerings of the congregation during Mass and lend a helping hand as needed. Ushers generally volunteer for a consistent Mass time from week to week, and their service at each Mass is coordinated by a head usher.

**Contact:** Doug Eppich, 352-4549, deppich@waterflowconsultants.com

### Cantors

The function of a cantor is to promote singing on the part of the congregation during liturgies. A cantor needs a strong voice but need not be a soloist. This ministry requires competence with reading music, clear enunciation, and singing on pitch.

**Contact:** Loretta Oakley, 359-4224, loakley@stmatt.net

### Instrumentalists

The primary instrument in leading the congregation of St. Matthew in song is the organ. However, there are opportunities to utilize other instruments in enhancing the liturgies. String, brass, and woodwind players are invited to share their talents.

**Contact:** Loretta Oakley, 359-4224, loakley@stmatt.net

### Adult Choir

A non-audition volunteer group, the St. Matthew Adult Choir sings mainly at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on the first and third Sundays of the month from September through May, Christmas Eve, the Triduum, Confirmation, Advent Vespers, and other major events of the liturgical year. The repertoire of the Adult Choir includes Gregorian chant, great masters, and contemporary composers. Some music is simple two-part while other selections are more academic and sophisticated. The Adult Choir meets Thursday evenings in the choir loft from 7:00-8:15 p.m. These rehearsals not only improve basic music skills but also provide an opportunity for camaraderie with fellow parishioners who enjoy using their musical gifts to enhance the worship of the entire community.

**Contact:** Loretta Oakley, 359-4224, loakley@stmatt.net

### Children's Choir

The St. Matthew Children's Choir includes students from St. Matthew School as well as other school-age children of the parish from grades two to six. This choir routinely sings at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on the second and fourth Sundays of the month from September through May, Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday and First Communion. Participation in this choir at an early age teaches proper church etiquette and familiarizes the children with the Order of the Mass. The philosophy of this choral group is that the musical contributions, although secondary, do improve and expand with maturity and time. What is important is that the children take pride in having made a special contribution to the sacred liturgies and prayer life of their parish family. Children's Choir rehearses in the choir Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm.

**Contact:** Loretta Oakley, 359-4224, loakley@stmatt.net

### Handbell Choir

A subset of the Children's Choir, the St. Matthew Handbell Choir consists of fifth through eighth graders. The members of this choir are members of the Children's Choir who have the added challenge of ensemble work. The bells are enjoyed by everyone, giving the players a new dimension in reading music and an opportunity to produce a new and unique sound. Handbell players follow the same Sunday Mass schedule as Children's Choir.

**Contact:** Loretta Oakley, 359-4224, loakley@stmatt.net

### Greeters

Parishioners who serve as greeters extend a warm and spiritual welcome to parishioners and visitors at weekend Masses. Greeters are scheduled to cover one of the five weekend Masses, serving once or twice a month. They arrive fifteen minutes before Mass and assist for a few minutes after Mass helping distribute parish bulletins.

**Contact:** Dan and Suzanne Rodawig, 351-1556, rodawig.daniel@comcast.net

time, talent, & treasure



"Give, and it will be given to you."

—Luke 6:38

## CATECHESIS and EVANGELIZATION

### CCD (Children's Catholic Development)

CCD is a formal religious education program available to parish children from preschool (age 3) through eighth grade. Through CCD, our parish provides education in the Faith for those unable to benefit from the Catholic school system. The program is staffed by the DRE with volunteer catechists (teachers, co-teachers, and aides) generally sought from the congregation. Catechists must be confirmed Catholics, high school graduates, at least 18 years of age, with no canonical impediments to the sacraments. Aides may be under 18 and currently in high school. All instruction is faithful to the Magisterium of the Church. Texts used are in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and approved for use in the Diocese of Peoria.

CCD is an inclusive program. The DRE should be advised of special educational needs for any students at the time of registration. Registration occurs in August and instruction begins on the first Sunday after Labor Day. Instruction is conducted from September to May, with classes meeting on Sunday mornings in the school building. (Grades K-8 students should attend Mass other than the 11:30 Sunday time slot.) A fee is required per child, which is generally due with registration.

**Contact:** Mary Hazen, 359-4224, mhazen@stmatt.net

### RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

RCIA is an integrated process of instruction, spiritual growth, and discernment for non-Catholics who wish to learn more about the Catholic Faith. After an initial inquiry period, unbaptized individuals can be accepted as catechumens preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist—during the paschal Vigil. Those who have been previously baptized in a non-Catholic Christian tradition may be accepted as candidates to enter into full communion with the Church and receive those sacraments they have not previously celebrated. Catholics who have been baptized but have not had the benefit of catechesis, as well as those returning to the Church, also benefit from the RCIA program's introduction to the Faith, worship, and the life of the Catholic Church. The program begins each year with inquiry sessions in September and concludes with a period of post-initiation instruction in the Easter Season. Parishioners are invited to serve as sponsors for the catechumens and candidates, accompanying their spiritual journey with prayer and support.

**Contact:** Mary Hazen, 359-4224, mhazen@stmatt.net

### Sacrament Preparation (or RCIA for children)

Sacrament preparation is provided in conjunction with the parish religious education program to meet the particular needs of children seeking initiation into the Catholic Church or the reception of specific omitted sacraments.

**Contact:** Mary Hazen, 359-4224, mhazen@stmatt.net

### Coming Home

Have you or someone you know been away from the Church for a while? Do you have questions or concerns about the Church that keep you from fully participating? Changing circumstances in our lives or misunderstandings that have caused doubts and hurt may have lead us to lose our faith and trust. These issues may have even grown into anger toward both God and His Church. "Coming Home" ministry invites inactive Catholics, regardless of the reason, to come back. We listen; we address questions and concerns; we provide information on a variety of issues as well as changes that have occurred since Vatican II. We strive to promote caring, understanding, and healing.

**Contact:** Don Fraley, 359-2408, DonFraley@coldwellbanker.com

### Angel Camp

Angel Camp is a summer vacation Bible camp offered for children entering kindergarten in the fall through grade 5. Volunteers prepare instructional, recreational, and social elements to offer five days of fun activities and surprises. Angel Camp is usually scheduled for the third or fourth week of June each year. A modest fee per child is requested, and registration is open to children from any parish or faith denomination.

**Contact:** Mary Hazen, 359-4224, mhazen@stmatt.net

### Youth Group for Senior High (BLAZE!)

BLAZE! seeks to help high school students grow in their faith as well as their knowledge and experience of God's love through the Church and through others. This is accomplished by exposing its members to formal teaching, faith sharing, sacramental worship, Christian interaction, social activities, and service to the parish and community.

"Adult Ministers" are adults willing to share their faith and personal witness with the high school youth of our parish by becoming a member of the Core Leadership Team. They build relationships with the teens, participate in small group discussions, chaperone events, and assist the Youth Group Coordinator. "Summer Mission Trip Adult Leaders" are adults who accompany Youth Group on a week-long summer mission. The mission is usually scheduled sometime mid-June through the end of July. One male and one female per five students are needed.

**Contact:** Jason and Morgan Schreder, 309-241-8893, stmattthewyg@gmail.com

### Youth Group for Junior High (SPaRK!)

SPaRK! is open to seventh and eighth grade students of St. Matthew Parish. The Junior High youth group has many fun activities throughout the year. SPaRK! provides a safe and faith filled environment for students to explore and learn more about their faith while having fun with friends. SPaRK! also participates in an area wide youth group event called X-TREME. X-TREME meetings are planned throughout the year so that youth from area parishes can meet one another and form friendships as well as faith-ships!

**Contact:** Mary Knight, 693-3757, mary.knight@mchsi.com or Jennifer Clarke, 312-848-8175, jenniferandjohn@sbcglobal.net

### Baptism Preparation Committee

This committee is composed of couples who assist the parish priests in sharing the Church's teachings about the Sacrament of Baptism with families preparing to have their children baptized.

**Contact:** Chris and Jenny Lugardo, 721-2329, odragul@juno.com



*"For from him and through him and for him are all things ..."*

—Romans 11:36a

## CATECHESIS and EVANGELIZATION cont. \_\_\_\_\_

### Bible Study

Using the "Great Adventure: Journey through the Bible" series of readings, discussion guides, and video lectures developed by Jeff Cavins, St. Matthew offers foundational studies of sacred scripture in small group settings. Explore with us the history, meaning, and theological implications of sacred scripture in defining and guiding the one holy catholic and apostolic church and each of our own faith lives. All are welcome. No prior bible study experience is needed. Tuesday morning, 9:00-11:00 a.m., and Tuesday evening, 7:00-9:00 pm.

**Contact:** Tim and Karen Barnes, 398-1489, barnes.kmj@gmail.com

### St. Lawrence Parish Library

Under the patronage of St. Lawrence, the parish library is located in the vestibule of the Parish Center. A committee of volunteers oversees Catholic materials—books, periodicals, audio-visual items—made available for loan to parishioners.

**Contact:** Mary Hazen, 359-4224, mhazen@stmatt.net

## SPIRITUAL \_\_\_\_\_

### Prayer Chain

The St. Matthew Parish Prayer Chain provides an opportunity for individuals with special intentions (birth, baptism, marriage, sickness, death, etc.) to have prayers offered for them. It also provides an opportunity for parishioners to grow in their prayer life by praying for these special intentions. Call or email to submit your prayer requests or to become one of the more than 500 parishioners participating in this ministry through prayer. Prayer Chain participants receive a weekly email listing the Prayer Chain intentions.

**Contact:** Sarah Rouse, 398-4066, slr79@hotmail.com

### Rosary Outreach

The goal of this ministry is to reach out to residents of long term care facilities by touching not only their spiritual lives by praying the Rosary interactively, but also their sense of dignity and well being through handshakes, smiles, and personal greetings.

**Contact:** Joan Malee, 352-7776, joanmalee@gmail.com

### Vocation Committee

The Vocation Committee promotes and supports vocations to the priesthood and religious life specifically from our parish. They meet regularly to pray for new and current vocations and to coordinate vocation events. These include the Traveling Crucifix program (the second Sunday of the month at the 9:30 a.m. Mass) and the Holy Hour for Vocations (which is scheduled from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on the Thursday before every first Friday).

**Contact:** Jan Dennis, 607-1144, jdennis76@comcast.net

## PASTORAL CARE \_\_\_\_\_

### Bereavement Committee

The Bereavement Committee assists individuals in the St. Matthew Parish community who have experienced the death of a family member or a miscarriage. The committee is prepared to make visits, lend books from its bereavement library, provide a listing of resources, say prayers, as well as simply listen and share from mutual experiences. The committee also delivers a "Green Bag" of items that families may find useful upon the arrival of extended family and friends. A "Mass of Remembrance" is scheduled in November to remember and pray for parish members and their family who have passed away. The committee meets as needed.

**Contact:** Anne Weber, 356-0375; aweber13@comcast.net

### Human Needs Ministry

This ministry strives to improve upon the issues of accessibility and inclusion within St. Matthew Parish for those persons with disabilities. Participation in this ministry is open to all ages and abilities.

**Contact:** Melissa Hoerner, 355-6289, mahoerner@comcast.net

### Ministry to the Sick

This is a ministry of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who bring the Eucharist to those who are confined to their homes or in nursing homes. They also share prayer and fellowship and bring any particular needs to the attention of the parish priests, staff, or other ministries.

**Contact:** Jill Schneider, 356-9639

### Elizabeth Ministry

The Elizabeth Ministry is designed to reach out to women during special times of motherhood. Women can share experiences and concerns through personal visits at home or in the hospital. It is also involved in pregnancy support, celebration of birth, post-miscarriage support, fertility issues, and infant/child crisis support.

**Contact:** Bobbie Jo Kirby, 607-1212, bjkirby97@gmail.com

### Parish Nurses

The Parish Nurse Ministry focuses on the promotion of health related to the values, beliefs, and practices of the faith community, its mission, and ministry to its members. Emphasizing prevention and early intervention, parish nurses act as integrators of health and faith, health educators, and counselors, referral advisors, advocates for health care, and volunteer coordinators. Functions include providing information on medications, home safety, nutrition, specific care skills, and acting as advocates and managers of health care at medical appointments. Partnering with pastoral care, parish nurses visit parishioners at select health care facilities providing spiritual care at Masses, Communion services, and weekly Eucharistic nursing home rounds. To access the confidential parish nurse line, call the Parish Office at 359-4224.

**Contact:** Joanne Huff, 352-4471, jhuff@mailstation.com

*"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."*

*— Romans 12:13*



## SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

### Parish Office Help

Help with periodic mailings and brochure assembly.

**Contact:** Debbie Benz, 359-4224, debbenz@stmatt.net

### Funeral Luncheons

The St. Matthew Funeral Luncheon Committee has a sizeable core of workers ready to provide lunches or brunches for families of the deceased and an extended list of volunteers willing to contribute salads or desserts for the funeral meal. Families are grateful for this gesture of kindness during a difficult time. Parishioners who volunteer to serve on this ministry will be called to offer assistance, but if there is no answer, a message will not be left. Instead, the next volunteer on list will be called given the short amount of time (usually less than two days) prior to the funeral meal.

**Contact:** Jane Anderson, 356-0587

## SERVICE cont.

### Children's Nursery

The nursery is available during the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass except for the month of August. The nursery is staffed by volunteers. You do not have to have a child in the nursery to be a volunteer. A signup schedule is prepared in advance. The nursery is open to children of all ages who are not enrolled in the 9:30 a.m. CCD program.

**Contact:** Julie Sikorski, 359-6642,  
Julie.Sikorski@yahoo.com

### Baptismal Bibs

Baptismal bibs are hand-embroidered garments prepared for use during the Sacrament of Baptism and then given to the family as a remembrance of the occasion. While volunteers with good embroidering skills are needed, there are also other simpler tasks involved. Bibs can be embroidered at home, but once a year volunteers come together to prepare the entire year's supply of bibs for embroidery.

**Contact:** Erin Breen, 378-4377, ebandco@gmail.com

### Buildings and Grounds Committee

The Buildings and Grounds Committee considers needs relating to the physical operation of parish buildings and property beyond the scope of routine maintenance. Meetings are held as needed.

**Contact:** Greg Petry, 356-0406,  
gpetry@petry-kuhne.com

### Parish Voice

The Parish Voice is a quarterly newsletter for St. Matthew Parish. Volunteers plan and prepare the newsletter with supervision from the pastor and help from the parish staff. Preparation tasks include research, interviewing, writing, photography, and graphic design. Interested parishioners are encouraged to contact the editor to discuss where their time and talents can be applied. Computer literacy is helpful.

**Contact:** Julie O'Mahoney, 359-4971,  
joolie64@yahoo.com

### PEA Administration

The administration committee of the Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration program requires about 35-50 people to oversee events, programs, printing materials, web management, and newsletters. Specific ways to help include; 1- assist the group that facilitates adorers in their worship of Our Lord, 2- be an hourly coordinator (one who motivates and encourages all the adorers in a specific hour to keep their appointment with Our Lord), 3 - be a division leader (a manager who assists six hourly coordinators in doing their job), or 4 - participate in special events and activities.

**Contact:** Parish Office, 359-4224, adoration@stmatt.net

## SOCIAL

### Hospitality Committee

The St. Matthew Hospitality Committee enlists the aid of parishioners willing to help with set/clean up, decorations, or serving food and drinks at special parish events. Also, the committee welcomes those willing to contribute an occasional appetizer, dessert, or food item.

**Contact:** Melissa Donahoe, 398-2655,  
bobmissy@sbcglobal.net

### Coffee and Donuts

Coffee, tea, milk, hot chocolate, bagels, and donuts are served after the 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Sunday Masses in the Feeney Hall September through May. Volunteers make coffee, set up tables, and set out food and drinks. Clean-up is sometimes aided by those families still in the Parish Center at "closing."

**Contact:** Henry Gabb, 356-0638, henry.gabb@intel.com

### Welcome Committee

The Welcome Committee hosts three dinners a year to include all new registered parishioners. These dinners help new people meet fellow parishioners and also provide an overview of different parish activities to assist in their transition into the parish. Welcome Committee members, as well as the priests, attend the dinners to answer questions about the church and school.

**Contact:** Mark and Regina Taylor, 356-7693,  
rptaylor1@comcast.net

### YSYM (Young Singles/Young Married Group)

This is a group of parishioners who come together to enjoy fellowship with one another, deepen their spirituality, and provide service to others. The age range is loosely defined but the members generally fall between college age and parents with young children. Welcome are single men and women; married couples with or without children, and divorced, separated or widowed parishioners.

**Contact:** Dave and Leanne Schug, 403-0807,  
dschug@illinois.edu

### Steppin' Out (Senior Group)

This group is open to the 60+ segment of the parish - singles, couples, men, and women. The goals of Steppin' Out are enriching lives by making social connections possible; reconnecting with old friends; encouraging members to share the time and talents; providing opportunities to take advantage of the resources of the Champaign-Urbana community; and providing interesting travel adventures.

**Contact:** Mary Lee Garrison, 356-5387,  
marylee34@comcast.net  
or Patsy Schmitt, 607-1594, dasduck@gmail.com

### Moms and Tots Group

The Moms and Tots group provides an opportunity for mothers in our parish to meet for fellowship, spiritual growth, and development. The Moms and Tots group meets the first, second and third Wednesdays of each month 9:00-11:00 a.m. Activities include Bible study, confessions, fun activities for moms, and "Mom's Night Out."

**Contact:** April Stark, 417-3657, april\_stark28@yahoo.com  
or Joanna Yallaly, 841-5450, jyallaly@gmail.com

## COMMUNITY

### St. Vincent DePaul

This is a joint organization comprised of parishioners of both St. Matthew and Holy Cross churches. Members are dedicated to serving those less fortunate in the community. They service local Catholics residing in nursing homes, as well as shut-ins, as a primary function. Additionally, through the support of parishioners and donors, the organization is able on a limited basis to assist local families as they work through challenging spiritual and economic times. Meetings are weekly at Holy Cross and two members are on call daily.

**Contact:** Doug Eppich, 352-4549, [deppich@waterflowconsultants.com](mailto:deppich@waterflowconsultants.com)

### Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

Volunteers are needed to cook and serve meals for the homeless at Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, located at 124 West White Street, Champaign (New Covenant Church). Daily Bread also gladly accepts packaged food as well as toiletry items.

**Contact:** Sheryl Scherschligt, 352-9550, [sschersc@illinois.edu](mailto:sschersc@illinois.edu)

### Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a lay Catholic fraternal service organization. It is open to all Catholic men at least 18 years of age who are in communion with the Holy See. The four Principals of the Order are charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. A primary mission is to support local charities, one of them being Special Olympics.

**Contact:** Val Koble, 359-0996 or Andy Ehrlich, 549-9349, [andyahrlich@hotmail.com](mailto:andyahrlich@hotmail.com)

### Serra Club

Men and women dedicated to promoting vocations, supporting priests and religious, and strengthening the members' own faith through prayer, fellowship, and education.

**Contact:** John Radka, 355-1348, [jradka1@comcast.net](mailto:jradka1@comcast.net) or John Dahl, 359-4214

### Respect Life

Through education, community involvement, and prayer, the Respect Life Ministry promotes the message that all human life is sacred. Recent activities include "40 Days for Life," the "National Life Chain," candlelight services on January 22, and a "Celebration of Life" liturgy on the Feast of the Annunciation.

**Contact:** Mary Eppich at 352-4549 or Myrna Buyno at 352-1007

### 4-H Club

Champaign Mixed Clovers 4-H Club serves boys and girls ages 8-18. The majority of this particular 4-H group are St. Matthew parishioners, and we have met at St. Matthew more than 25 years. Members can choose from a wide variety of projects in which to enroll including foods, photography, visual arts, etc. The 4-H Club sponsors community service projects as well.

**Contact:** Sue Stephenson 586-5780, [s.stephenson11@gmail.com](mailto:s.stephenson11@gmail.com) or Linda Thiele, 356-6845, [thieleli@hotmail.com](mailto:thieleli@hotmail.com)

### Church Women United

Church Women United is an ecumenical group of Christian women who meet three times a year to give witness to their faith in Jesus Christ. The group was started in the midst of World War II to pray for peace and the safe return of husbands, fathers, and sons. Their purpose now is to strengthen the ecumenical movement and enable women to make their fullest contribution; to form an organized channel for speaking, acting, and setting goals on common issues; to develop relationships with other religious and secular organizations; and to celebrate together the reality and relevance of their faith on World Day of Prayer, May Fellowship Day, and World Community Day.

**Contact:** Mary Lariviere, 356-7580, [ml.lariv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ml.lariv@sbcglobal.net)

### Boy Scouts

St. Matthew Troop 121 serves to help boys mature to honorable men. They are given many opportunities to learn leadership skills within the troop, enjoy accomplishments in outdoor adventures, and appreciate recognition as they advance in rank. The Troop meets weekly.

**Contact:** Larry Atherton, 356-5928, [ldatherton@earthlink.net](mailto:ldatherton@earthlink.net)

### Cub Scouts

Cub Scout Pack 121 is a year-round family program designed for St. Matthew (and Carrie Busey) boys in grades 1-5 (ages 7-10). Parents, leaders, and organizations work together to influence character building, good sportsmanship, greater family understanding, and personal achievement. Cub Scouts do fun things with other kids! They go places and see things. They play sports. And, they build things, like race cars and bird houses.

**Contact:** Dan Baker, 722-3206, [dan.baker@scouting.org](mailto:dan.baker@scouting.org)

### Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts is open to all grades K-12 girls who are members of St. Matthew Parish or attend St. Matthew School. Meetings are held after school, in the school. The four goals are for each girl 1- to become the very best person she can be; 2 - to respect other people; 3 - to build her own set of values; and 4 - to build leadership skills.

**Contact:** Cindy Brya, 351-1759, [brya@illinois.edu](mailto:brya@illinois.edu)

*"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done."*

—Proverbs 19:17



time, talent, & treasure

# Your Stewardship Offering...

A special letter to the children and youth of St. Matthew from Msgr. Mark

What are some of the gifts God has given us? God has given us our lives, our senses, our talents, and our brains. God has given us our parents, families, friends, and teachers. God has given us food to eat, air to breathe, water to drink, and nature to enjoy. Above all, God has given us His Son, Jesus Christ, to love us and give His life for us. We have a lot to thank God for. We can show our thanks by caring for all the gifts God has given us and by using them in ways that make God happy. That's what Stewardship is about.

Christian Stewardship is usually divided into three areas: time, talent, and treasure. You may think you don't have any of these things to share, but you do! Here are a few examples of how you can share your time, talent, and treasure.

## Time

One of the best ways you can use your time is to pray. Praying is spending time with God – a very good use of your time. You can pray alone, with your family, or at church. You can pray to thank God, to ask God's help with problems in your own life, or to ask for help for others. Other ways to give your time are the following:

- † Participating at Mass, in religious education, and in parish events
- † Taking care of your younger brother or sister
- † Talking with a grandparent or older person
- † Visiting a sick friend
- † Helping a classmate with homework
- † Doing what your parents ask you to do around the house

Time is a gift from God. The choices we make about how we spend our time can be an act of Stewardship. Ask yourself: am I filling my hours with activities that please God and help others?

## Talent

Everyone has talents and gifts. Whatever you do well, whatever makes you happy when you do it, that's your gift. The best way you can thank God for your gifts is to use them and share them with others. That way, you serve God with the gifts God has given you.

*What are your talents?*

Are you a good reader? You can share that talent by reading to a younger sibling or to an elderly person in a nursing home. Are you a good cook? How about baking some cookies for holiday dinners for the needy? Do you like to draw? Make a poster for the school or parish, or make cards to send to soldiers overseas. Do you make friends easily? You can share your talent by welcoming a new kid at your school.



## Treasure

You may not think you have much treasure, but whatever you have in money and material possession is your "treasure." Remember the widow in the Gospel story who had only two small coins to put in the collection box? Jesus said that her small offering was worth more than the larger ones because it was all she had, and she gave it from her heart.

You see, Stewardship doesn't have to be hard. You've probably realized by now that you are already practicing Stewardship. Now that you know what Stewardship is, you can begin to do even more. Thank God for His gifts and find ways to use them in God's service to help others. A good way to begin is by praying this Stewardship prayer.

Dear God,

I thank you for everything you have given me. My gifts of time, talent, and treasure are precious; help me use them to do Your will. Please help me realize that I need to share all of my gifts with the Church and others. Help me be generous, forgiving, and holy. I offer you this day all I think and do and say. With the help of Jesus, your Son, I will try to love everyone. Amen.

Msgr. Mark



**Questions about stewardship?** Email [stewardship@stmatt.net](mailto:stewardship@stmatt.net), visit [www.stmatt.net](http://www.stmatt.net), or call the Parish Office at 359-4224.



*St. Matthew is a stewardship parish. As a community of believers, we express our love of God and others by giving our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.*

— PLEASE PRINT —

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY PHONE: Home  Cell  \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDARY PHONE: Home  Cell  \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

This Stewardship Commitment Form allows you to designate how you and your family will share your time, talent, and treasure. Thank you for making this annual commitment to return to the Lord a portion of the gifts He has given you, helping keep His love alive in our community and the world.

**After prayerful reflection and as an opportunity to express gratitude for all the blessings God has given, I (we) commit to living and growing in stewardship through the gifts of...**

**Time:** I (we) commit to living and growing in stewardship by sharing the gift of time within our St. Matthew parish community and the greater community, and will strive to commit to:

- Attend Sunday Mass every week
- Make time in my/our life for daily prayer
- Be involved with parish activities/events

**Talent:** I (we) have been blessed with talents that I (we) am/are willing to share to benefit our parish community. (If completing this form as a couple/family, provide each person's name and talent below, i.e., Bob/financial planner/willing to speak on estate planning; Ann/landscaper/willing to help with parish/school landscaping, etc.) *When a need arises, the Parish Office will give you a call and if you are able to assist, then the match is made. If not, your name/talent will be kept on the list for a future need.*

I (we) am/are interested in sharing my/our gift of talent with the parish ministries on the back of this form (select specific ministries with a check mark and write each person's name next to their commitment).

**Treasure:** Earned by using my/our God-given gifts of talents and time, I (we) will strive to be good stewards of treasure helping to accomplish our Lord's work on earth by giving weekly to my/our parish and other charities.

Our Call to Stewardship 2012

# Stewardship Commitment Form

**Parish Ministries:** ✓ Check below the parish ministry/ministries that you/your family would like share your time/talent with in **2012**. Write EACH NAME of the family member interested; you will be contacted soon.

## LITURGICAL \_\_\_\_\_

- Altar Servers \_\_\_\_\_
- Lectors \_\_\_\_\_
- Sacristans \_\_\_\_\_
- Ushers \_\_\_\_\_
- Cantors \_\_\_\_\_
- Instrumentalists \_\_\_\_\_
- Adult Choir \_\_\_\_\_
- Children's Choir \_\_\_\_\_
- Handbell Choir \_\_\_\_\_
- Greeters \_\_\_\_\_

## CATECHESIS and EVANGELIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

- CCD \_\_\_\_\_
- RCIA \_\_\_\_\_
- Sacrament Preparation (*RCIA for children*) \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Coming Home \_\_\_\_\_
- Angel Camp \_\_\_\_\_
- BLAZE! (Sr High YG) \_\_\_\_\_
- SPaRK! (Jr High YG) \_\_\_\_\_
- Baptism Preparation Committee \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Bible Study \_\_\_\_\_
- St. Lawrence Parish Library \_\_\_\_\_

## SPIRITUAL \_\_\_\_\_

- Prayer Chain \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosary Outreach \_\_\_\_\_
- Vocation Committee \_\_\_\_\_

## PASTORAL CARE \_\_\_\_\_

- Bereavement Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Human Needs Ministry \_\_\_\_\_
- Ministry to the Sick \_\_\_\_\_
- Elizabeth Ministry \_\_\_\_\_
- Parish Nurses \_\_\_\_\_

## SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

- Parish Office Help \_\_\_\_\_
- Funeral Luncheons \_\_\_\_\_
- Children's Nursery \_\_\_\_\_
- Baptismal Bibs \_\_\_\_\_
- Parish Voice \_\_\_\_\_
- PEA Administration \_\_\_\_\_

## SOCIAL \_\_\_\_\_

- Hospitality Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Coffee and Donuts \_\_\_\_\_
- Welcome Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- YSYM \_\_\_\_\_
- Steppin' Out (Sr Group) \_\_\_\_\_
- Moms and Tots Group \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNITY \_\_\_\_\_

- St. Vincent DePaul \_\_\_\_\_
- Daily Bread Soup Kitchen \_\_\_\_\_
- Knights of Columbus \_\_\_\_\_
- Serra Club \_\_\_\_\_
- Respect Life \_\_\_\_\_
- 4-H Club \_\_\_\_\_
- Church Women United \_\_\_\_\_
- Boy Scouts \_\_\_\_\_
- Cub Scouts \_\_\_\_\_
- Girl Scouts \_\_\_\_\_

*Interested in an existing parish ministry that does not appear in the list above? Call the Parish Office at 359-4224.*



*Thank you for sharing your many gifts!  
Return the Commitment Form to the Parish Office  
or drop it in the offertory basket at your earliest convenience.*