



July 8, 2012

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

ST. MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH

...a community of faith and love

CHURCH/PARISH OFFICE/CONFERENCE CENTER

2700 SE VIRGINIA AVE · TOPEKA, KS 66605

(785) 232-5012

FAX: (785) 232-0028

ADORATION CHAPEL

(785) 232-6335

ST. MATTHEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1000 SE 28TH STREET · TOPEKA, KS 66605

(785) 235-2188

ST. MATTHEW EARLY LEARNING CENTER

1000 SE 28TH STREET · TOPEKA, KS 66605

(785) 233-1220

PASTOR: FR. JERRY VOLZ (EXT. 204)
frjer@saintmatthews.org

DEACON: REV. MR. NATHAN HAVERLAND
haverland@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATOR: BOB BROXTERMAN (EXT. 201)
rjbrox@saintmatthews.org

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MINISTRY TO SICK/HOSPITALIZED/HOMEBOUND:
BARB MCCAULEY

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: HEATHER HUSCHER (EXT. 216)
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SCHOOL SECRETARY: JAMIE RODRIGUEZ (EXT. 215)
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EARLY LEARNING CENTER DIRECTOR:
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spechtm@saintmatthews.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL:

MARY ALFORD (CHAIR)	379-9585
JOHN ARTZER	267-3889
LORI GAFFNEY	806-5602
NETTI KOSTECKI	266-4706
RICHARD LEE	266-8144
MICHAEL MAYFIELD	354-1778
MATT ROCKERS	357-1698
KAREN SNELL	379-9579
DAVID STERBENZ	379-9915

FINANCE COUNCIL

KAREN MORROW (CHAIR)	267-3950
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SCHOOL COUNCIL:

CHRIS HERRERA (CHAIR)	357-8461
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EARLY LEARNING CENTER COUNCIL:

TRICIA LESPREANCE (CHAIR)	817-6198
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for when I am
weak,



then I am
strong.

- 2 Corinthians 12:10

*We at St. Matthew Catholic Church
are a community of faith and love
dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ.
We are committed to spiritual growth
through active worship, education and ministry.
We provide an environment to support a Christ-centered way of life.
Through our actions others will be drawn to Christ.*

www.SaintMatthews.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday, 8:00 am - 12 noon

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday, 5:00 pm
Sunday, 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Weekday Mass Schedule:

Monday - Friday, 8:05 am
Please check bulletin for changes

Holyday Mass Schedule:

8:05 am & 7:00pm

Bulletin Deadline:

Monday noon, in writing.

Confessions:

Saturday afternoon, 3:45—4:45 pm,
or by appointment.

Who is a parishioner?

One who is registered and regularly participates in the liturgical life of the parish and demonstrates support of the parish mission by completing and fulfilling an annual commitment of time, treasure and talent.

To register in the Parish:

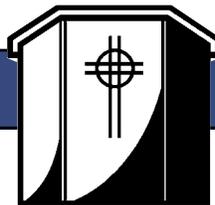
We welcome anyone interested in being an active member of our parish. Please call the Parish Office (232-5012) and an introductory letter and information regarding the registration process will be sent to you.

Baptisms:

First time parents (or those who have not attended a class within the last three years) must attend instruction classes, which are held monthly. Classes are held at the Parish Conference Center (use driveway entrance at 27th and Virginia). Parent(s) must be registered in the parish a minimum of 4 months prior to the baptism. Parent(s) must contact the church office to sign up for the class. Baptisms are celebrated monthly, information on dates is given out at the class.

Marriages:

Church law requires individuals to be registered and active in the parish no less than six months prior to scheduling a wedding. Couples are then required to contact Fr. Jerry at least 8 months prior to the anticipated wedding date and **BEFORE** making any other arrangements or reserving a reception hall.



FATHER'S FORUM

"A PROPHET'S VOICE"

Today's readings invite us to some reflection on the role of the prophet in our midst. More specifically, they might lead us to consider the frustration of a prophet whose words are not heeded by his or her listeners. Following the announcement concerning the Health Care Law and the Rally for Religious Liberty at the statehouse, we as the Church of God realize that we are called to be prophetic to the world. Even in times of sadness or dismay, we as Christians must never despair.

In the first reading, God calls Ezekiel and sends him to preach to the Israelites. But even as God sends him, God notes that the people to whom Ezekiel will preach are "hard of face and obstinate of heart" as well as being "a rebellious house." In the Gospel passage, Jesus quotes an adage that "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." His mission and his message were rejected in his own hometown.

As we will hear next week, however, prophets from out of town are not often welcome either. The lot of the prophet is almost always a difficult one because a true prophet, one who speaks God's word instead of his or her own word, is always calling people to change their minds and hearts and actions. And that is no way to get elected in any popularity or political poll!

It is easy to assume that the task of being a prophet today falls upon the preacher. And it's attractive to let him or her take all the flak when an issue causes dissension or unpopularity. It would be easy also for every Catholic to let the priest or the Bishop do all of the talking, while they remain silent in the workplace or even among friends or relative. But it is wrong for any Catholic Christian to remain silent about the wrong and evil that surrounds us, even in the actions of others. When each of us was baptized, we were initiated into his triple ministry as priest, prophet and king.

Benjamin Franklin said, "As we must account for every idle word, so we must account for every idle silence." Even Jesus stated that we are judged by our actions AND inaction. By silently allowing immoralities to go unnoticed or unchallenged, we are morally participating in the act. Our Church has and will speak out against wrongs and evils because the Church speaks not on behalf of men, but on behalf of God. The silence of each person of faith about matters of faith and morals is really a sign of approval to things contrary. Is challenge and controversy difficult? Of course. But can we not also find strength wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit? You bet! Each one of us is called to be a prophet and each one of us makes a difference. "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little." —Edmund Burke

God bless!

I would like to thank all those who remembered me with prayers, cards, gifts and best wishes as I celebrated my 20th Anniversary of Ordination. Special thanks to all those who helped with the lunch and the reception. I am grateful for your generosity and am blessed and thankful for the gift of priesthood.

St. Matthew's Parish: "The Refrigerator Page"

This page is provided for you to add to your family's information center, the "frig!"

MASS INTENTIONS

July 9th - July 15th

Monday**St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions**

NO Mass

Tuesday **Ordinary Time**

8:05 a.m. - Mark Coker

Wednesday**St. Benedict**

8:05 a.m. - Martha Eder

Thursday **Ordinary Time**

8:05 a.m. - Tom Carroll

Friday**St. Henry**

8:05 a.m. - Samantha Byers

Saturday **Vigil, 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

5:00 p.m. - Mary Ann Janca

Sunday**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. - St. Matthew Parishioners

10:30 a.m. - Martin Dale Veenker



PRAYER CORNER... *We pray for those among us who are ill and for their caregivers, those experiencing a hardship or difficulty and for those in the Armed Forces. To place someone's name on the prayer corner, please call the Parish Office (232-5012).*

Andrew Martin • Norma McIntyre • Ann Thimmesch • Mary Hefley • Pam and Bobby King • Tony, Harry and Delores Kiehl • Tom Bohm • Bunny Bray • Teresa Lerma • Rose Albright • Joe Menge • Sr. Corita Conlan • Gena Wiggins • Leonard Cullison • Carolyn Peck • Stephanie Figueroa • Lisa Simpson • Jim Halpin • Betty Ketter • Norma Weaver • Gene Hinton • Calli Basler • LaDonna Cunningham • Rosalie Goodwin • Rick and Sherri Veltman • Mary Angela Carroll • Kay Kuhlman • Gary Smith • Megan Kelly • Margaret Shields • Cynthia Weber • Ron Kelsey • Ed Robertson • Joe Taliafferro • Mary Kay Boerner • Easton Weishaar • Ruby Glotzbach • Chase Ensley • Ashley Leiker • Kevin Brennan • Kate and Joseph Blocker • Melanie Stadler • Sara Weishaar • Marcella Melton • Marie Putnam • Alice Urban • Patricia A. Gonzales • Regis Campbell • Bob Hess • Mark Dickey • Bruce Scott • Ruth Lampe • Errol Saville • Jack Bone • Liam Newsome • Joe Ehalt, Jr. • Bill Paulussen • Bob Paulussen • Valerie (Field) Wilhelmson • George Menge • Kyle Lindteigen • Michelle Carson • Jackie Tomes • Agnes Wright • Jack Holmberg • Jerry Weigel • Anna Gudenkauf • Laine Tangeman • Lorine Haefner • Stephanie Hilderman • John Ratzlaff • Olin Shipp • Grant Rempe • Betty Manning • Jerry Perrin • Angel Valdivia • Elva Buchanan • Mike Barnard

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Dylan Treadwell • Austin Brinker • Tashina Miller • Nick Newsom • Darrell Linenberger • Josh Hahn • Matthew Pawley • Ulric Baumgardner • Dexter Holliday • Shane Lacaille • Mark Pawley • Doc Treadwell • Marvin Fehrenbach • Billy Fehrenbach • Dennis Mulryan • Paul Shipley • Craig Loughlin • Richard Kolbek • Ryan Conley • Abraham Sipe • Christopher Day Johnson • Nicholas Gawdun • Alan Bennett • Angelo Cruz • Kyle Conley • Abby Hays • Alvin Pierce • Roberto Caceres • Melissa-Jo Rivera • Mike Perry • Chad May • Barry Price • Dalan Pittz • Anthony Stallbaumer • Paul Alber • Nathan Hunt • Bryan Smith • Glenn Ortiz • Frank Narvaez • Larry Thomas • Michael Tibbits • Danielle Burke • Michael Mathewson • Jesse Adams • Russell Staley • Greg Cochran • Daniel Schiefelbein, Jr. • Jason Dolan • Steven Klumpe • Woody Sisson • Kristin Mathewson • Bill Taylor • Heather Smith • Scott Slyter • Chris Bonilla • Scott Payne • Steven T. Wyrer

Sunday, 7/8

8:00am Mass/Parish Hall

10:30am Mass/Parish Hall

Monday, 7/9

8:00am-noon Catholic Charities Mobile Services/
South Parking Lot

8:00pm Men's Open Gym Night/Trompeter Gym

Tuesday, 7/10

7:00pm Confirmation Parent Meeting/Parish Hall

Wednesday, 7/11

6:00pm Garden Club/Parish Grounds

Thursday, 7/12

5:30pm Centering Prayer/Weekday Chapel

6:00pm Physical Resource Committee/St. Matthew Rm

Friday, 7/13

Saturday, 7/14

7:30am Men's Fellowship Group/Parish Conference Center

9:30am Baptism Preparation Class/St. Mark Rm

3:45pm Confessions/Church Vestibule

"Simple Abundance Food Collection Weekend"

5:00pm Mass/Parish Hall

6:15pm Six Dates for Catholic Couples/Parish Hall

Sunday, 7/15

WELCOME SUNDAY: donuts & coffee served in
Gathering Space following both Masses

"Simple Abundance Food Collection Weekend"

8:00am Mass/Parish Hall

10:30am Mass/Parish Hall

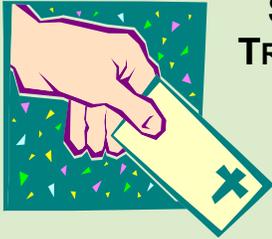
6:00pm Auction Committee/St. Mark Rm

**DON'T FORGET TO GO TO MASS
WHILE ON VACATION!**

**DON'T TAKE A VACATION FROM YOUR
VOCATION TO BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF
THE BODY OF CHRIST.**

You may find out Mass times anywhere by going to
www.MassTimes.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE UPDATE

The bulletin went to press before the July 1st weekend totals were available. Updated information will be included in the July 15th bulletin.

PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING YOUR TIME AND TALENT

A volunteer is needed to take Communion to the Catholic patients at Stormont Vail Hospital on the 1st Sunday of every other month (approximately 1 - 2 hour time commitment). Other volunteers are also needed to take communion on weekdays to Stormont Vail and/or St. Francis Hospital. Training is provided. Please call Barb McCauley if you are interested (267- 3913).

CHURCH RENOVATION UPDATE

This week the electricians continued working on the installation of the new lights in the ceiling on the north and south sides of the church. Sheetrock repair and refinishing also moved forward.

The week of July 30th the new pew seats will be delivered and installed. We are needing some volunteers who can assist the factory technicians with the removal of the old seats and the installation of the new ones. By supplying volunteers, the parish will save over \$3,000 on the cost of the replacement project. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please contact Bob Broxterman at the Parish Office, 232-5012, or rjbrox@saintmatthews.org.

**If you are new to St. Matthew
and would like to register in the Parish,
please join us for the next
WELCOME SUNDAY
July 15th
following the 8 a.m.
and 10:30 a.m. Mass
in the Grand Entry/Gathering Space.**

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

This weekend as we celebrate the independence of our country, we will do well to echo the Psalmist, saying, "Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy." May we always recognize and use wisely the gifts of freedom and abundance He has showed upon us.

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE PARISH STEWARD?

- Making a commitment to practice stewardship as a way of life.
- Participating at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.
- Practicing the faith in all areas of your life.
- Supporting various programs, ministries, activities and organizations.
- Pledging and tithing sacrificially to the parish.

Mark your calendar and plan to lend a hand...

PARISH WORK DAY Saturday, August 4th Beginning at 8 a.m.

Come for the morning or an hour or two ... whatever your schedule allows. We'll get busy on projects (especially in the church to cleanup in preparation for our 25th anniversary Celebration on August 12th) and at the school. The more help we have the quicker the jobs will be completed! This is a great way for high school students to complete service hours before the *busyness* of the school year begins.



AROUND ST. MATTHEW'S



WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED

Pablo 'Paul' Martinez, Sr., father of Angela Valdivia and grandfather of Sierra, Estefan, and Isabella Valdivia.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their loved ones in this time of sadness.

CARD MARATHON GROUPS ARE FORMING

Play once a month from September through March...seven times in all. Groups are available for bridge, pitch, and pinochle. Fee to play is ten dollars (\$10) per person or twenty dollars (\$20) per couple. If you wish to participate in this fun, social activity with other card players, please send your name, address, telephone information, and check payable to St. Michael's Guild to: **Parish Cards**

**1916 SW Harp Place
Topeka, KS 66611**

Please submit your payment BEFORE JULY 14, 2012 deadline. The Card Marathon Groups are sponsored by St. Michael Guild as a fundraiser for our parish.

JEWELRY BOOTH/RELIGIOUS ARTICLES BOOTH

Preparation is underway for the 2012 Fall Festival. Donations of used jewelry and religious items (small statues, rosaries, etc.) are needed. You may leave donations in the box in the foyer of church. Thank you for donating items now so that we can begin cleaning and preparing them for display.

BE SURE TO PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

- August 12th...Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Matthew Church
- September 8th/9th...Time and Talent Fair
- September 15th...St. Matthew Gala
- October 27th/28th...Annual Fall Festival Celebration

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Perpetual Adoration builds community because the Eucharist is the Sacrament of unity. Please call Sue (354-7762) if you can help with one of these hours or an hour of your choice.

- Monday, 10 p.m.
- Tuesday, 9 p.m.
- Wednesday, 9 a.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m.
- Thursday, 10 p.m.
- It is vacation time again. Please let Sue know if you have a sub covering your hour so she knows who to call if there is a problem.

BAPTISM PREP CLASSES

A Baptism Prep Class will be held on Saturday, July 14th, 9:30 a.m., at the Parish Conference Center (use parking area at 27th and Virginia and enter the Conference Center at the north door). In order for a child to be baptized at St. Matthew's, the parents/guardians must be registered in the Parish a minimum of 4 months prior to the baptism and must attend an instruction class. Please call the Parish Office to register for the class. Baptisms are celebrated monthly; information on dates is given out at the class.

THE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION IS NEXT WEEKEND, July 14th and 15th.

We try to make each bag identical to include the items listed below, enough food to get someone through an emergency situation. Please place your donations in the appropriate tub when you bring them to church to assist us in sorting. Thank you for your generosity to the people of our community! Monetary donations are appreciated, but food items can be put to use immediately.

Cereal	Peanut Butter	Canned Fruit
Spaghetti Sauce	Tuna	Pasta/Spaghetti
Soup	Saltine Crackers	
Canned Vegetables	Boxed Mac & Cheese	
Toilet Paper		
Canned Meats and Meals (beef stew, spaghetti o's, etc.)		



SCHOOL NEWS

St. Matthew Catholic School faculty, staff, and students wish to thank our Parent-Teacher Organization for their many wonderful contributions to our school in 2011-12. They worked their tails off! Not only did they raise more money for the parish and school than anyone can remember, they provided some exciting equipment for teachers through their new classroom grant program, including:

- A CD listening center for Mrs. Jewell's room. She says, "I love to use literacy centers in my classroom. A listening center will greatly enhance my reading program."
- Promethean board enhancements for Mrs. Schmitt and Mr. Menke. These will allow teachers to move throughout the classroom while still teaching with the board. Mrs. Schmitt says, "This device will allow me to have more interactive lessons."

- Science equipment for Mrs. Spicer, including a new microscope, balance, and scale. She also received an LCD projector so that she can expand her interactive teaching capabilities.

Other equipment purchased through everyone's hard work at Chili Bingo include a new computer for Mrs. O'Shea and another Promethean board and all the gear that goes with it! PTO funds are also helping to underwrite an upgrade of the electrical system throughout the school. Thanks so much!

IRON Sharpens IRON

Proverbs 27:17

Catholic Youth Rally
Sunday, August 5th
Prairie Star Ranch

Also, there will be group activities
and Mass

Just bring \$10, a sack lunch, and a positive attitude!

Interested in going? Contact cherylb@saintmatthews.org and let her know!



Guest Speaker:

Father Pontifex

WHY I LOVE RELIGION AND JESUS
A CATHOLIC UNDERSTANDING OF
HOMOSEXUALITY
EXPOSING ATHEISM

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 8, 2012

Sunday: Ez 2:2-5/2 Cor 12:7-10/Mk 6:1-6a

Monday: Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22/Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday: Hos 8:4-7, 11-13/Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday: Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12/Mt 10:1-7

Thursday: Hos 11:1-4, 8c-9/Mt 10:7-15

Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Mt 10:16-23

Saturday: Is 6:1-8/Mt 10:24-33

Next Sunday: Am 7:12-15/Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/Mk 6:7-13



REGIONAL NEWS

INVITING ALL COUPLES, *Marriage and Family Enrichment*, Saturday, July 14th, Rossiter Hall (Church basement), 8th and Jackson. Why: to improve family and marriage relationships. How: Come, listen to presentations, and interact with other participants. This is NOT a problem solving evening but an opportunity to look objectively at topics that are a part of almost every marriage. No registration fee. Questions, call Fr. Tom (887-6276) or Kevin and Karen (266-7573).

HAYDEN PACE ANNUAL SUMMER GOLF TOURNAMENT, July 28th, 8 am shotgun start at Lake Shawnee Golf Course. Cost is \$80/person and includes green fees, cart, drink tickets, and lunch. All proceeds go to the Hayden High School general fund for operation. Please call the Pace Office to register at 272-2150 or email Eileen Canfield at canfielde@haydenhigh.org.

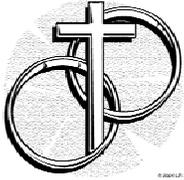
MATER DEI CHILD CARE CENTER is hiring for a part time lead teacher to start in early August. Must have at least 6 mo. experience in center teaching preschool age or college credit in early childhood or related field. Send resume to materdeiccc@materdeischool.org or call 232-1603, ask for Margaret.

MOTHER TERESA FERTILITYCARE CENTER: CREIGHTON MODEL FERTILITYCARE SYSTEM is a natural family planning method in keeping with God's plan for fertility and marital love. The Creighton Model System is 96% effective as a family planning method and is in agreement with Catholic Church teaching. Our free introductory sessions are the third Monday evening of every month. Our next sessions are July 16, August 20, and September 17 at 7:00 pm in Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church (pre-registration is required for the above dates.) We can accommodate other teaching times as needed. Call 785-806-0843 or email fertilitycare@colbern.net to register or with questions. Learn more at www.fertilitycare.org

NFP INTRODUCTORY SESSION, Marian Clinic, Sunday, July 15th, 2—5 p.m., 1001 Garfield (across 10th and Garfield from the library, use 10th Street entrance, down 5 steps to patio level and ring buzzer for entrance). This method assists couples in spacing children without use of contraception. Couples having difficulty achieving a pregnancy can also use it effectively. No reservations are necessary. All married or engaged couples are welcome.

2012 CATHOLIC FAMILY CONFERENCE, August 3rd—5th, Century II Convention Center, Wichita. Exciting programs for adults, young adults, high school, Jr. High and children. Truly a great spiritual retreat for the entire family. Dynamic speakers include Tim Staples, Steve Ray, Marcus Grodi, Jason & Crystalina Evert, Chris Horn, Dr. Francis Beckwith, Rob Evans, Christine Watkins and music and step dancing by Celtic Spring. Daily Mass, confessions and adoration. Look for details on "Early Bird Registration," www.CatholicFamilyConference.org or call 316-618-9787.

Marriage is more than just a secular concept, it is a sacrament, a sign of Christ's love for the Church! Renew your sacrament, deepen your communication and rekindle the love you have for each other by attending a **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND**. For more information contact Tony & Barb Zimmerman at 816-741-4066 or visit the website at www.womeneks.com. Contact for Topeka area: Kyle & Denise Mead (357-5000).



WEDDING BANNS

Oswaldo Bravo de los Rios
Erika Meza-Zerlin
July 28, 2012

PLEASE ADD TO THE PRAYER LIST

Tom Bohm Nathan Martin
Barb Swisher Mary Carr
Military — Dylan Treadwell

PARKING REMINDER

Please park in any of our 4 parking lots when coming to Mass. It is preferred that there be no parking in the street along Maryland Street or 28th Street. There is always plenty of parking in the east lot (enter from Ohio Street) and the north parking lot (enter from 27th Street). Please do not park on the new rectory lawn as there are sprinkler heads that could be damaged. Thank you for your cooperation.



We are on the hunt!

We are searching for
St. Matthew Youth
to join us for an afternoon of
fun, food, and faith!
Sunday, July 29th, 4:00 pm
St. Matthew Parish Hall
Come and bring a friend!

You'll be surprised at what you find!

RSVP to cheryl@b@saintmatthews.org



*All are invited as we celebrate a quarter
century of active worship, ministry and
education...*

25th Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Matthew Catholic Church

August 11th, 5:00 p.m.

August 12th, 8:00 a.m.

and 10:30 a.m.

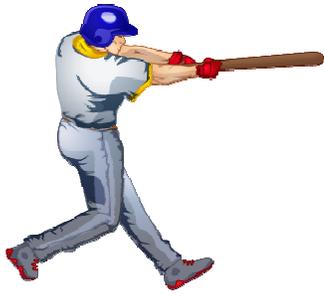
**Masses in Honor of
the Dedication of our Church**

**August 12th, 12 Noon
Lunch in the Parish Hall**

The parish will provide the meat, table service and drinks. R.S.V.P. needed so we can plan for the meal (look for sign-up sheets in the Gathering Space the weekend of July 22nd and July 29th). All are asked to please bring a potluck dish to share.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

...Support our priests and seminarians and join us for a **'Knights and Priests' bus trip to a Royals vs. Cleveland game, Tuesday, July 31st.** Tickets are \$30/person which



includes bus transportation from Christ the King parking lot. We will meet at 3:45 p.m. (east side) and buses will leave at 4:15 sharp. For tickets, call Tom Cook (272-6281) no later than July 13th.

...The Knights of Columbus are assisting **Mary's Choices Pregnancy Center** with projects as they prepare for the Blessing & Celebration of the Center which will be held on September 8th.

- Indoor painting at the facility (old St. Joseph Convent, 306 Van Buren). Day and evening hours.
- Grounds care and maintenance.
- Looking for used furniture; needed items include desks, chairs, etc.

Call Galen Greenwood if you can help (806-7344) with any of the above.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Can you help those thinking of becoming Catholic?

The formation of inquirers into the Catholic Church is the responsibility of the entire community. Here at St. Matthew's, in addition to the RCIA/RCIC team members, there are a number of roles that could be filled. Please call or email Fr. Jerry at 232-5012 or frjer@saintmatthews.org to select yours.

Sponsors — You would accompany an inquirer throughout the RCIA/RCIC process: attend the Thursday evening catechetical sessions for the adults, listen to the inquirer (as a confidante, not in judgment), respond to the inquirer's questions from your own faith experiences, participate in Sunday Mass with the inquirers, invite and accompany the inquirer to parish activities. A side benefit is the renewal experience in the sponsors themselves.

Prayer Partners — You would be given the name of an inquirer and would pray for that person with the intention that he/she is able to discern and accept God's will. This prayer is private. The prayer partner chooses the particular prayers and the time.

Refreshment Providers — You would be contacted throughout the year to schedule the date or dates on which you would provide refreshments (usually one person is needed each week). The refreshments may be home-cooked or store bought. Cookies, brownies, chips, dips, veggies, fruit, cheese and crackers are popular times, but what you donate is up to you.

The catechetical sessions begin the week of August 23rd, and continue until April. Classes are held in the Parish Hall.

St. Matthew's is blessed with many people who assist in these ways. Those who have participated in the past are invited to continue, and new people are encouraged to join the ranks.