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Matthew
 CATHOLIC PARISH

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“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.” Matthew 7:12





Liturgical Schedule

Sundays

Saturday Evening Vigil Mass: 5:15 p.m.
Sunday Masses: 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., and 5:15 p.m.

Weekdays

6:40 a.m. Lauds - Monday through Saturday
7:00 a.m. Mass - Monday through Saturday
5:30 p.m. Mass - Monday through Thursday

Sacraments

Reconciliation

Thursday before First Friday 4:30 – 5:25 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 – 6:55 a.m.
Thursday 5:00 – 5:25 p.m.
Saturday 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Any time by appointment; please call the Parish Office.

Baptism

First and third Sundays of the month after 11:30 Mass.
To schedule a Baptism, contact a priest at the Parish Office (359-4224).
Before the first child, couples must attend a baptismal program which is normally held the second Sunday of the month. Call Parish Office to arrange. (359-4224)

Marriage

Couples MUST contact a parish priest eight to twelve months before anticipated date of wedding (prior to setting the date) to allow ample time to provide a comprehensive marriage preparation.

Holy Communion for the Sick

The priests and Extraordinary Ministers will bring communion to the sick and shut-in at the hospital or in the home upon request.
Please contact the Parish Office to schedule a visit.

Contact Info

Parish Office & Rectory 359-4224 • Office Fax 359-9846
Parish Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Parish Website www.stmatt.net
St. Matthew School 359-4114 • School Fax 359-8319

Just joining us?

Welcome

Newcomers are invited to register at the Parish Office in the Parish Center or online at stmatt.net. We invite you to have your picture taken after any 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

Hospitality

Join us after the 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. Sunday Masses for coffee and donuts in the Great Hall of the Parish Center. (September through May)

Nursery

Childcare is offered during the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Nursery located in the Parish Center.

Parish Staff



Msgr. Mark Merdian
Pastor



Rev. Mark Miller
Parochial Vicar



Rev. Robert Lampitt
Parochial Vicar



Kathy Scherer
School Principal



Mary Hazen
Coordinator of Religious Education



Loretta Oakley
**Liturgy Coordinator/
Music Director**

Baptisms



September

Alyssa, child of Carl & Angela Buegler
 Hugh, child of Jihyuk & Youngjoo Choi
 Gabriela & Brooke, children of Hernan & Dana
 Castro-Rueda
 Jack, child of Patrick & Karen Clifton
 Sophia, child of Pedro & Claudia Coyote
 Nathaniel, child of Martin & Jennifer Kaufmann
 Kylie, child of Arthur & Kirstin Miller
 Olivia, child of Jacob & Melissa Quinton

October

Maryjane, child of Adam & Reagen Bradbury
 Gwendolyn, child of Jeffrey & Danielle Matthews
 Isaac, child of Steven & Jennifer Stone
 Hayden, child of Justin & Denise Bates
 Christopher, child of William & Gretchen Clavey
 Taylor, child of Daniel & Hillary Wells

November

Margot, child of Ricardo Pradez & Ann Schneider
 Leighton, child of Adam & Lindsey Clark
 Beckett, child of Ryan & Sarah Gray
 Eva, child of Joey & Maria Matthews
 Jackson, child of James & Patricia Smith
 Alexander, child of Thomas & Jennifer Musto

Weddings



September 12

Crystal Stockwill &
 Adam Mitsdarfer

October 17

Lauren Murray & Benjamin Miller

October 24

Kathleen McCormick & Evan El Koury

November 7

Leslie Kuhl & Eric Payne

December 5

Jill Young & Paul Messamore

December 11

Tara Swift & Adam Dye

Deaths



Killian "Bus" Schachtlie, October 3
 Mark Meis, October 13
 Brad Wells, November 1
 Chuck Robards, November 29
 Barbara Cain, December 13

*Please remember St. Matthew Parish in
 your Will. Our legal title is
 St. Matthew Roman Catholic
 Congregation of Champaign, Illinois.
 Questions? Contact Ruth Schankin
 (352-6829).*

New Parishioners

Adam and Tara Dye
 1817 Tahoe Ct.
 Champaign, IL

*Adam works in sales for CPS
 Office Technologies and Tara is a
 cosmetologist with BJ Grand
 Salon.*



Tara & Adam Dye

Joe and Amy Matthews
 1617 Branch Drive
 Champaign, IL

William and Joan Penicook
 2401 Prairie Ridge Place
 Champaign, IL

William and Joan are both retired.



Joan & William Penicook

Jim and Judy Schuster
 1810 Trails Dr.
 Urbana, IL

*Jim works for the University of
 Illinois on the Cooperative
 Extension State team and Judy
 is a former math teacher.*



Judy & Jim Schuster

*Newcomers are invited to register at the
 Parish Office or online at www.stmatt.net.*



welcome/milestones



The Cardinal Kung Foundation Prayer Sponsor Program

A "prayer sponsor" promises to pray daily for a designated person, either for an underground clergyman or for a Patriotic Association bishop's return to the Universal Church. To become a prayer sponsor contact:

The Cardinal King Foundation
PO Box 8086, Stamford, CT 06905
www.cardinalkungfoundation.org

A wallet-sized card indicating the person for whom you are praying will be sent to you.

Prayer For Priests by His Eminence, the late Ignatius Cardinal Kung, Bishop of Shanghai. This prayer was published on July 16, 1953 during the early years of the persecution of the Roman Catholic Church in China by its communist government. He was imprisoned from 1955 to 1988.

In his Letter to the Catholic Church in China dated May 27, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "With intense joy I acknowledge your faithfulness to Christ the Lord and to the Church, a faithfulness that you have manifested sometimes at the price of grave sufferings...in fact, it must not be forgotten that many Bishops have undergone persecution and have been impeded in the exercise of their ministry, and some of them have made the Church fruitful with the shedding of their blood."

The persecution continues today. The ministry of the underground clergy is filled with poverty, long hours, constant risk of arrest, jail and physical and psychological abuse. As the late Ignatius Cardinal Kung said in 1991, "For 30 years, I had no letter, no visits, no spiritual books, no Holy Mass and no sacraments. The years of imprisonment in the solitary cell would have been impossible to endure without the prayers of the Universal Church" (from letter received by a "prayer partner" 11/21/2009).



All Powerful and eternal God, through the merits of Your Son Jesus, and through Your love for Him, I implore You, have pity on the priests of the Holy Church. In spite of their sublime dignity, they are fearful and weak, like all created beings. In Your Infinite mercy, inflame their hearts with the fire of Divine Love. For the sake of Jesus, Your Son, bestow grace on the priests and uphold them. Do not let them fall into temptation and tarnish their noble vocation.

O Jesus, we implore You. Look with pity on the priests of the Holy Church: those who are serving You faithfully and proclaiming Your glory; those who are persecuted for tending Your flock; those who are abandoned, weary and sorrowful; those who are lukewarm, confused and who have denied their faith; those who are sick, dying or in Purgatory. Lord Jesus, we entreat You. Listen to our supplication, have pity and console them.

O Jesus, we entrust to You the priests of the whole world: the priests who baptized me, absolved my sins, offered Holy Mass and consecrated the Eucharist to nourish my soul. We entrust to You the priests that instructed me when I was ignorant, gave me strength in my weakness, showed me the Way and the Truth and comforted me in my sorrow and affliction. For all the blessings they obtained for me, I implore You to support them in Your loving kindness.

O Jesus, shelter our priests in Your Sacred Heart. Let them take refuge in Your mercy and love, in this life and to the hour of death. Amen.





2009 Annual Stewardship Renewal

by April Stark

Over the course of two weekends in October, St. Matthew held its Annual Stewardship Renewal. This renewal asks parishioners to pray about their use of time, talent and treasure and to ask themselves how they are being called to give back to God and our community.



Richard Langlois and Corey White represent the Boy Scouts at the festival.

On the weekend of October 17-18, Stewardship Awareness Weekend, the **John Schmitt** family served as lay witnesses speaking at all Masses. They shared beautiful examples of their involvement in the parish and school and described how their faith has grown through their stewardship.

During Commitment Weekend, the weekend of October 24-25, stewardship commitment forms were collected from parishioners, brought to the Altar and blessed by Msgr. Merdian as part of our parish's offering to God. The annual Stewardship Festival was held in the Parish Center celebrating the many opportunities available in our parish for worship, prayer, formation, and service. This year's Festival also included a stewardship teaching and entertainment component for children. Children shared their time and talent making greeting cards that helped to put a smile on the faces of hospitalized soldiers.

Andrew Anderson, the "Gospel Magician," entertained the children with magic tricks but did so in a way that taught them about God and his grace, mercy, and forgiveness.



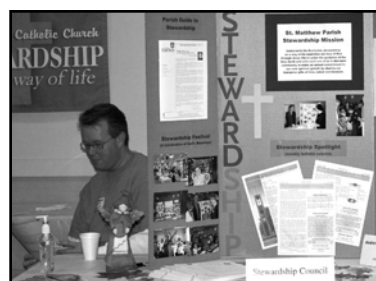
Andrew Anderson, the Gospel Magician, performs magic at the Stewardship Festival.

Thank you for your continued commitment to be good and faithful stewards in returning your time, talent and treasure to our Lord.

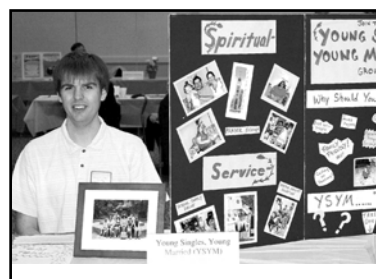
Note: If you signed up in October to participate in a parish ministry and have not been contacted by that ministry, please call the Parish Office at 359-4224.



Mary Minneci and Marina Buttita represent the Kitchen Committee.



Jeff Troxell answers questions about the Stewardship Council.



Mark W. Gabby at the Young Singles, Young Married table.



Marriage Enrichment Day “Made in God’s Image, Male and Female”



Saturday, February 20, 2010
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Parish Center Great Hall

Guest Speaker Donna Dausman
from the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Springfield

Created in God's image, husband and wife complement each other. However, sometimes the very differences that draw men and women to each other can create challenges in relationships.

This seminar will teach participants how to celebrate their differences and how to focus on their marriage every day.

Registration is \$10 per couple (includes seminar materials, continental breakfast, catered lunch, and child care)

Contact the **Parish Office** at 359-4224 to register.



Annunciation Celebration – March 25

The Feast of the Annunciation is on March 25, 2010. This is the feast on which we celebrate the Angel Gabriel's appearance to Mary, asking her to be the Mother of Jesus. To honor Mary and the child Jesus, who was conceived when Mary accepted, the Respect Life Ministry is planning a Holy Hour and Rosary for Life at 7 p.m. Volunteers are needed to lead one decade of the Joyful Mysteries. Musicians are also needed. Please contact **Mary Eppich** at 352-4549 if you would like to participate.

Parish Mission: Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

by Barb Davis

For three nights in early November, Father Joseph DeLuca led the 2009 St. Matthew Parish Mission on The Healing Power of the Eucharist. Father DeLuca lives in Opelousas, Louisiana, but has dedicated himself to visiting a different parish every weekend throughout the U.S. to promote and encourage Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

Through stories both from the bible and current events, Fr. DeLuca enthusiastically conveyed the benefits gained by those who commit themselves to an hour spent with the Eucharist in Adoration. He emphasized the personal relationship that develops simply from sitting quietly in front of the Blessed Sacrament, talking with Jesus, and listening to what Jesus puts in your heart. For each of the three days, he covered the topics of Faith, Hope, and Love as they relate to Christ's true presence in the Eucharist. Adoration, in its most basic form, is wanting to spend time with

someone that you love. We know that Jesus loves us and wants to spend time with us. We simply have to make a commitment to spend time with Him.



St. Matthew Parish is blessed to have a Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel on site that serves the Champaign-Urbana vicariate. It was established in 2002 in response to Pope John Paul II's call for a greater devotion to Christ in the Eucharist. After Father DeLuca's animated and inspiring talks on Eucharistic worship and devotion, many new adorers signed up for holy hours at the Adoration Chapel and, for the first time since its creation, all of the hourly slots are filled. However, there is always room for more. Stop by the Adoration Chapel (located between the Church and the Parish Center) and spend a little quiet time with Jesus. You'll be glad you did. If you have any questions about adoration or wish to sign up as an adorer, contact **Jane Walsh** at jwalsh@stmatt.net.

Could you not keep watch with me for one hour? Matthew 26:40

St. Francis: From Stump To Statue

In September, the Todd Atkins' family hired T. C. Gill to perform his chainsaw art on a tree stump in their back yard next to the school. The stump was transformed into St. Francis. It was truly amazing!



First graders watch as T.C. Gill turns a stump into a statue.



The completed statue of St. Francis.



parish news



40 DAYS FOR LIFE.

Spring Campaign

Planning is already underway for the spring campaign of "40 Days for Life." This inter-national campaign is designed to help save babies from abortion. Participants pray in front of abortion clinics, hoping to let the young mothers know someone cares about them and their unborn child. Often, that is all that is needed to help the mother choose life. For information about "40 Days for Life," contact **Kelly Messner** at 344-8006.

During past campaigns in Champaign, several young mothers chose life after seeing us at the abortion clinic. Baby Aleecia, born in June 2009, is the result of one of those decision.



Photo of Baby Aleecia.

Respect Life Ministry – 2010 Planned Activities

- March 25 Annunciation Celebration – 7 p.m. Holy Hour & Rosary for Life
- Spring 2010 40 Days for Life – Peaceful prayer vigil at Planned Parenthood
- July 4 Champaign Freedom Celebration Parade Float
- August Diocesan Respect Life Workshop in Peoria
- Sept-May Mom-Tots Group nursery helpers
- October Pennies for Life – Collection following Masses on Respect Life Sunday
- October National Life Chain – Silent witness along Kirby Avenue at Hessel Park
- Fall 2010 40 Days for Life – Peaceful prayer vigil at Planned Parenthood

NATIONAL LIFE CHAIN

The weather cooperated in October for the National Life Chain. Organizers **John and Myrna Buyno** greeted dozens of participants who then each held up a sign containing a Pro-Life message. Participants came from all around the C-U area. The demonstration was along Kirby Avenue at Hessel Park, extending almost to Neil Street on the east and Prospect on the west. The reason for this annual Respect Life Sunday Life Chain is to publicly pray for an end to abortion.

Mom – Tots Nursery Helpers

On the third Wednesday of every month, mothers of young children meet for a quiet study session, while other women from the parish entertain the children in the Parish Nursery.



Afterwards, the moms go home inspired and refreshed, and the helpers go home happy and ready for a nap. While nursery helpers are coordinated by the Respect Life Ministry, it is not necessary to join the ministry in order to participate. For information about being a Mom-Tots Nursery Helper, contact **Mary Eppich** at 352-4549.



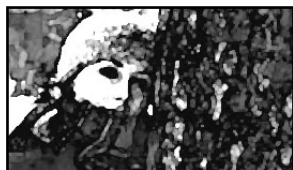
Helpers tend the children of members of the Mom-Tots group.



Seasonal Affective Disorder

By Marge Donoghue, RN

While winter traditionally is associated with the joy of the holiday season, not everyone's days are merry and bright this time of year.



Some studies suggest up to 20 percent of the U.S. population is touched in some way by seasonal affective disorder (SAD), a type of depression that typically sets in as the days grow shorter in the fall, and lifts with the lengthening hours of daylight in the spring. Less often, people experience the symptoms during spring and summer. Symptoms and their intensity vary widely among those living with SAD, but there

are guidelines for recognizing a potential problem and getting help, either for yourself or someone close to you.

SAD is cyclical, following the same pattern season after season. Warning signs include hopelessness, anxiety, social withdrawal, oversleeping, loss of interest in once-enjoyable activities, weight gain and difficulty concentrating. People may brush off the symptoms as just a case of the blues or ignore changes they see in others, but diagnosis and treatment can go a long way toward returning those affected by SAD to mental and physical health. Seeking help is especially important if feelings of hopelessness or turning to alcohol for comfort accompany other symptoms.

"If you are concerned about someone around you, don't be afraid to ask if there is a problem, or if they would like to get attention," said rehabilitation counselor and former University of Illinois instructor Karin Brockelman, Ph.D. "Even offer to accompany the other person to an appointment if he or she is uncomfortable," Brockelman said, "but don't ever tell the person to just 'cheer up' or offer other trite advice."



Psychotherapy will also be part of the treatment. Spending time – even just 15 minutes once or twice a day – in front of a lighted box designed to mimic sunlight can offer relief. Antidepressant medications also have their place in fighting SAD. Your physician may be able to time prescriptions to coincide with the usual, cyclical onset of symptoms. Psychotherapy likely also will be part of the treatment regime.

Helpful lifestyle changes may include exercising regularly, getting outdoors, and making the environment brighter by opening blinds and shades.

Finding the right diagnosis and treatment depends to a large extent on preparing well for the visit with a care provider. Time may be tight, so be forearmed with information pertinent to your condition, including symptoms and their intensity and timing; underlying physical and psychological conditions; prescription and over-the-counter medications you take; and recent stressors or life changes. Painting an accurate picture is critical.

There is no sure-fire way to predict or prevent seasonal affective disorder, but with diligence, support and an effective treatment regime, you can lessen its hold over these winter months.



On the Shelf *Selections from our St. Lawrence Library*

The Incorruptibles *Joan Carroll Cruz*

Author Joan Carroll Cruz spent five years researching and studying the lives of certain saints (called the Incorruptibles) whose bodies have not deteriorated over time. This book is about her research into the lives of those saints. A fascinating read.

Healing After Loss; Daily Meditations for Working Through Grief *Martha Whitmore Hickman*

Through the thoughts and words of various writers, both famous and obscure, this book of 365 meditations helps the reader to view loss in a variety of ways.

The Pope in America *Michael Novak*

With an introduction by Michael Novak, this book covers both the speeches made by Pope John Paul II during his 1995 visit to the United States and the most significant responses to those speeches made by different journalists throughout the country.

Maximilian, Saint of Auschwitz (VHS)

This informative movie tells the story of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan priest who was martyred in the concentration camp at Auschwitz.



Enrichment Committee Creates Fun Opportunities For Kids

The St. Matthew Enrichment Committee has established three fun programs for kids: Family Enrichment nights, a chess club, and a drama club. All of the programs are off to a fantastic start.

The chess club held it's first meeting in October. The club meets the first and third Mondays of the month and is open to anyone in 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade. Please contact **Julie O'Mahoney** at joolie64@yahoo.com or **Julie Jackson** at j.filip@comcast.net if you would like to join or to volunteer to help.



Jacob Arie and Jessica Crane concentrate on their moves.

The drama club (open to anyone in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade) also met in October. The meetings included some theater exercises and fun role-playing. In the spring, the drama club will put on a production. For information and volunteer opportunities, contact **Susan Flagin** at flagin@comcast.net.

In November, the Enrichment Committee hosted a parish-wide Family Reading Night. More than 50 people attended this fun family event with reading, writing, and crafting activities for all ages. Attendees brought along gently used books to swap. For information on the upcoming Family Science Night, contact **Karen Pollard** at kapollard@sbcglobal.net.

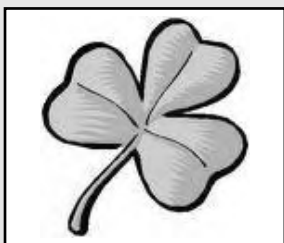




The Knights of Columbus

Lenten Raffle

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Lenten raffle. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Tickets may be purchased from Knights of Columbus members or during the Fish Fry. First prize is a 50-inch Samsung Plasma TV. Other prizes include a Samsung surround sound system, Samsung Blu-ray DVD player, Magellan GPS system, AdioVox 9-inch portable DVD player, and many cash prizes. Winners will be announced at the fish fry on March 26th.



4th Annual St. Patrick's Dinner Dance

Saturday, March 13, 2010
Parish Center Great Hall

Watch the church bulletin for more details.

Communal Penance Services

Communal penance services will be held at 7 p.m. at three of our local Catholic churches.

Following the communal service, individual confessions will be heard.

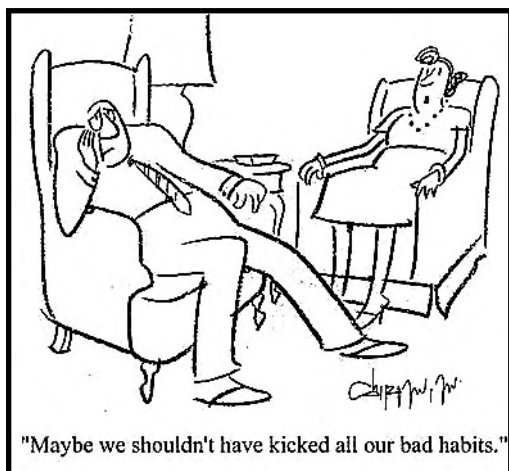
Monday, March 15	Holy Cross
Tuesday, March 16	St. Patrick
Wednesday, March 17	St. Matthew

Lenten Season Services

Ash Wednesday is February 17, 2010
Mass times are: 6:45 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m.

Mass every Wednesday at noon
beginning February 24th.

Stations of the Cross every Friday at 5:30 p.m.



"Maybe we shouldn't have kicked all our bad habits."



High School Youth Group Sharing Fellowship

By Carlos Villanueva

First, I want to thank everyone in the St. Matthew community for the warm and enthusiastic support I've been given. I'm blessed to know and work with you in this parish in taking on the work of helping our teens grow more deeply in their faith.

We have a really wonderful group this year – small, but wonderful. Early before our sessions started, I already got to experience their big-heartedness as they threw a surprise party for both Debbie and me. They just wanted to express their great appreciation for the time Debbie had spent with them as their coordinator and their gratitude to me before I had even done anything! I have been truly blessed by them.

The focus of our meetings and activities this year has been towards fostering awareness of what is truly fulfilling and what is not. We often ask the teens what they care about and what they desire. We hope that in journeying this way we will receive greater insight into where God is present in each of our desires and how we can invite Him more deeply into them.

Early in the year we went on two field trips to enjoy fellowship in the Lord. The first was to Frasca Field. Rudy Frasca toured us through his museum, and the "Panera Group" treated us to dinner. We also enjoyed a day at Feeney Farm playing outdoor games, a bonfire, and a bit of praise and worship.

In November, we had a retreat put on by NET (National Evangelization Team) Ministries. It was a great success! Attendance was small, but the Holy Spirit did great things for the retreatants. The NET ministers put on hilarious skits and moving dramatizations of common teen scenarios. Perhaps the most powerful part of the retreat was during prayer ministry when the Net ministers prayed over the teens individually and reconciliation. The teens really enjoyed the retreat. Thank you to everyone who hosted and helped with preparations.

We look forward to attending the Eucharistic conference at Mount St. Mary's in February. I'm especially excited to see some of my "brother" seminarians and for the teens to meet them. Please pray for us as well as those putting on the retreat as we encounter Christ together in the Eucharist.

The High School Youth Group Annual Pancake Breakfast will be on Feb. 7th. This breakfast helps fund our visit to Mount Saint Mary. Please come out after Mass and join us. It's a great opportunity to meet the teens!

Thank you again the encouragement and support. May God bless each of you!

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

1. *Who designed the Miraculous Medal worn by millions of Catholics?*
 - a. Pope Pius XI
 - b. The Virgin Mary
 - c. St. Catherine LaBoure'
 - d. St. Clare
2. *Which Christians are most similar to Catholics in doctrine and worship?*
 - a. Methodists
 - b. Lutherans
 - c. Orthodox Christians
 - d. Mormons
3. *For how many years was John Paul II the Pope?*
 - a. 20 years
 - b. 18 years
 - c. 32 years
 - d. 26 years
4. *Two of the original apostles had the same name. Which two?*
 - a. Simon Peter and Peter
 - b. James the Greater and James the Less
 - c. Judas and Jude
 - d. Thomas and Thomas Jr.
5. *What does Pope Benedict XVI's older brother George do for a living?*
 - a. Priest
 - b. Policeman
 - c. Butcher
 - d. Accountant

Answers

1. *b. The Virgin Mary. The Miraculous Medal was designed by the Blessed Mother, who appeared to St. Catherine LaBouré in 1830 and told her to have a medal struck with the image she showed her.*
2. *c. Orthodox Christians*
3. *d. 26 years. He was elected in October 1978 and died April 2005.*
4. *b. James the Greater & James the Less*
5. *a. Priest*

SPaRk! Junior High Youth Group Off To Great Start

By Mary Knight



youth group

SPaRk!, St. Matthew's awesome new junior high youth group is a great way to hang out with friends who share the same faith.



Twenty kids from the parish attended SPaRk's October kick-off meeting. Leaders **Mary Knight** and **Jennifer Clarke** entertained the kids and Monsignor Merdian with a mega inflatable bounce house/ obstacle course, a chocolate fountain, caramel apple dipping, prayer, and fellowship.

We also visited **Hardy's Reindeer Ranch** in October. Despite the rain and mud, the kids had a great time racing the pedal cars and finding their way through the Alien Invasion Corn Maze. Pedal cars are not as easy to ride as you might think, just ask the chaperones and leaders!!

In December we held a SpaRk! Christmas party. The kids enjoyed eating pizza, making cards and wrapping gifts for the foster children from Catholic Charities. Our youth group was able to adopt five kids for Christmas thanks to many generous donations. The kids were given the gift of the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Monsignor Merdian blessed the scapulars for the group.

We have enjoyed getting to know all of the kids who make SPaRk! so much fun. Our membership is always open. Please join us anytime. Questions? Suggestions? Offers of help? Contact **Mary Knight** at 377-8734 or **Jennifer Clarke** at 312-848-8175.



Photos from the Spark! Christmas party!

"SPaRk! Be the spark that lights the fire for the good news of God"

Check us out on Facebook!

SPaRk!

2010 will be another fun-filled year. Here is a list of our upcoming activities:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Friday, February 5th | "Gimme a Break From Winter" outing including pizza, bowling, skating, movies, swimming |
| Sunday, April 11th | Get A Clue! meeting
3:30–5:00 p.m. – MP room at St. Matthew |
| Sunday, June 6th | End of the year party! All incoming 7th graders welcome!!!! |



THE HIGH SCHOOL OF

SAINT THOMAS MORE

SCHOOL NEWS

John May named 2009 Paideia Award Winner

John May has been named the 2009 Paideia Award winner for his help in establishing the High School of St. Thomas More. This annual award is given out by the Champaign Vicariate of the Peoria Diocese and the High School of St. Thomas More to an individual who exemplifies an active commitment to Catholic education. In a press release, **Father Stephen Willard** and **Monsignor Albert Hallin** told Mr. May, "Your dedication and ceaseless espousal of the concept was one of the chief engines that drove this idea of a Catholic high school in Champaign. Your efforts were instrumental in making this high school a reality, and your continued support has helped ensure the St. Thomas More spirit will live on for generations."

Carla Grady was presented the 2009 Carl D. Stewart Volunteer Service Award by STM Principal Tim Millage for her commitment and service to the school.



STM principal Tim Millage, Fr. Stephen Willard, and Monsignor Albert Hallin present John May with the 2009 Paideia Award.



STM principal Tim Millage presents Carla Grady with the 2009 Carl D. Stewart Volunteer Service Award.

Congratulations to All of the Fall Sports Teams!

In an impressive showing, all of the fall sports teams had memorable seasons. Boys' Golf sent three seniors and three juniors to state and ended up winning state. Girls' Golf, for the fourth year in a row, secured a top four finish in Class 1 at state. In its first year of existence, the STM Girls' Tennis team sent freshman **Maddie Baillon** to state. The Girls' Volleyball team capped off a 30-5 season winning the Sangamon Valley Conference tournament and making it all the way to the sectional semifinals before losing to St Theresa. Boys' Soccer clinched their first Sangamon Valley Conference title. The Saber Cross Country team sent **Theresa Walle** to the state meet. The STM Football team had their first undefeated regular season in school history. The Sabers continued to dominate defensively with their first post-season win in Class 4A, beating Prairie Central 6 to 3, but fell to Metamora in the second round of the playoffs, ending the season 10 and 1. All of these results are a remarkable testament to how far the St Thomas More sports program has come in ten short years.

Feeling Creative?

The Empty Bowl Fundraiser will be held on February 19th to raise money to feed the hungry in our community and to mark the first Friday of Lent. The STM Art Club and Visual Art Class have been making bowls, and will provide materials and instruction to help you to make a ceramic bowl, if you'd like. The Art Club meets after school on Tuesdays from 3 to 4 p.m. and you can contact **Mrs. Pagel** or **Miss Metka** to arrange a time to work on a bowl. Come "buy" your bowl back on the 19th for \$10 and enjoy a wonderful soup and bread supper provided by a local restaurant. Or come support the cause by simply buying a bowl and enjoying the meal!

Thanks to all those who contributed to the food drive held before the November 7th second round playoff football game at St Thomas More. Thanks to Saber football fans as well as Metamora fans and members of our community, **619 pounds of food** were donated to the local Eastern Illinois Foodbank!



Congratulations to all our St. Matthew sports teams on their accomplishments!



The seventh grade girls' basketball team won the sectionals and placed 3rd in the state.



The boys' baseball team won the regionals, sectionals, and placed 2nd in the state.



The eighth grade girls' basketball team won the regionals.



The cross country team placed in sectionals and qualified for state.

The Parish Voice

The Parish Voice is a quarterly publication of St. Matthew Roman Catholic Parish in Champaign, Illinois. It is produced by volunteers and staff. All content is subject to approval by the Pastor, Monsignor Mark Merdian. Editor is Julie O'Mahoney. Graphic Designer is Michelle Haug. Staff and ministry contributors include Debbie Benz, Linda Ross, Jane Walsh, Mary Hazen, Monsignor Mark Merdian, Father Mark Miller, and Father Robert Lampitt, and the Parish Nurses. Production staff includes Barb Davis, Mary Eppich, Marcy Bellafiore, Ruta Rauber, and Kristin Wetzel. Mailing is prepared by the hands of many angels. All parishioners are welcome to submit article ideas, help research and write articles, and contribute photographs. Please address all comments to The Parish Voice at the Parish Office or email Julie O'Mahoney at joolie64@yahoo.com

If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter or are receiving multiple copies, please contact the Parish Office.



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Graced by the sacraments
and strengthened by
our faith in the Trinity,
St. Matthew Roman Catholic
Parish celebrates its mission:
to educate and form our
children and all members
of our parish family
to know, love, and serve
God and community.



Lenten Church Services

Mass every Wednesday at noon
beginning February 24th.

Stations of the Cross every
Friday at 5:30 p.m.

Communal Penance Services 7 p.m.

Holy Cross
Monday, March 15

St. Patrick
Tuesday, March 16

St. Matthew
Wednesday, March 17