



St. Matthew
Catholic Community

PARISH • SCHOOL • EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

December 25, 2021

2310 1st Ave NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

319-363-8269

*And the Word
became flesh
and dwelt
among us.*

John 1:14



The Nativity of our Lord

Merry Christmas and welcome to St. Matthew Catholic Community!



I wish each of you a Merry Christmas. Christmas is a most wonderful time as we reflect upon the great gift God sent us in Jesus. Without Jesus, we would be lost and we wouldn't have true Christian hope.

Even though we are living in a time of uncertainty with the ongoing pandemic, there is so much for which we can be grateful. We live in a country where we are free to worship God, where we enjoy so many material blessings like clean water, food, and shelter, and that is filled with opportunities that are not necessarily available elsewhere.

As a faith community, we also have much to be thankful for. We have a great parish filled with dedicated and generous parishioners. Our campaign, *Together We Can* continues to progress. We have a good school to form the hearts and minds of children. We have a dedicated staff that works hard to offer their very best in serving the faith community.

As we celebrate the Birth of Jesus, there is so much goodness to reflect upon. On behalf of the staff, I wish each of you a happy and holy Christmas season, filled with life, love, and joy.

Fr. Loeche

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend: Saturday 4PM & Sunday 8 & 10:30AM

Daily: Tues 5:30PM / Wed thru Fri 8 AM (8:30AM Thurs during the school year)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesdays 6-9PM / Thursdays 9AM-12PM



This has been an exciting year with many blessings! One specific blessing is the number of people who are participating in our various liturgical ministries! If you are not familiar with the term, a liturgical minister is anyone who has a role at Mass — including greeters, lectors (who proclaim the Word of God from the ambo), cantors and instrumentalists (who lead the music), sacristans (who set up everything for Father before Mass begins), etc. If you're interested in learning about or serving in any of these ministries, contact Zach.

Last Spring, we began the process of restructuring all our liturgical ministry teams. Now we have fully reengaged lectors, musicians, and sacristans, and we are gradually building a tech team. As of the end of November, we have a total of **60 people** active on these liturgical ministry teams. Thanks be to God!

Coming up in the New Year, we will have training sessions for altar servers, eucharistic ministers, and greeters. For anyone who would like to reengage with these ministries or give them a try for the first time, watch the bulletin for more details.

We are also continuing with our Intercessory Prayer Team, a group of people intentionally praying for the St. Matthew community. There are no particular requirements, only to lift up our community in prayer regularly. If you would like to join this group, contact Zach.

If you would like to request one or more Masses to be offered for loved ones who have passed away, we are currently scheduling Mass intentions through December 2022. Contact Zach with requests or for more information.

Let us continue to thank God for His faithfulness amidst the chaos of the world, as we celebrate His coming to be with us at Christmas and look forward to His return at the end of time!

Zach Gignac, Director of Liturgy & Music
319-363-8269 // zgnac@stmatthewcr.org

Marriage Enrichment Date Night

All married and engaged couples are invited to join us for social time, snacks, a talk on marriage, and small group discussion.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 23RD

3:30-5:30 PM

KEARN HALL AT ST. MATTHEW

BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE
CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED



We have a special Christmas gift for all married and engaged couples: We have begun a Marriage Enrichment Ministry here at St. Matthew! Thank you to the five couples who helped create a vision for this ministry.

Married and engaged couples are invited to join us for our kick-off Date Night on Sunday, January 23rd from 3:30-5:30 PM in Kearn Hall at St. Matthew. Following this Date Night, it is our hope to create small groups which will meet regularly to support one another and build friendships.

To RSVP, visit this link or scan the QR code: <https://forms.gle/ARamI9mAyWg2qdaQ8>

If you have any questions, please contact Kate Tyler at 319-363-5238 or kyler@stmatthewcr.org





Has it been awhile since you have had the opportunity to travel? Are you looking to get out and explore in 2022?

Look no further than the Mary in the Midwest pilgrimage from June 2-4, 2022! We are visiting three different Marian shrines in Wisconsin and Illinois, traveling via charter bus with overnight stays in Downtown Green Bay and Downtown Chicago.

There is still space available for people of any age to join us. This would be a great way to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Matthew all while growing in your faith!

Contact Megan Moore at 319-362-9967 or mmoore@stmatthewcr.org for more information!

Mary in the Midwest
DOMESTIC PILGRIMAGE
June 2-4, 2022

\$400 PER PERSON - INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, LODGING, BREAKFASTS, LUNCHES, AND TOUR FEES



The holiday season is upon us and we are so grateful to have made it through another year with all of the trials and tribulations that we have faced. We are so thankful for the blessings that were placed upon us.

Our staff and families have all remained fairly healthy and we thank the Lord for seeing us through those times of illnesses that we did experience. Thank you to all of our families that have continued to trust in our staff to care for their children. We appreciate all you do!

We look forward to a wonderful holiday season with those close to us and pray that everyone stays safe.

Happy Holidays!

Jackie Luzum,
Director of Early Childhood Center

St. Matthew is celebrating
100 years in 2022!



LOOK OUT FOR UPDATES BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2022



A Christmas note from St. Matthew Elementary. It is hard to believe it is the holiday season again, especially given the longer than usual warm temperatures this Fall. During the season of Advent, we have used this time to help those in our community who are most in need this holiday season. Each day we have collected a different item for Metro Catholic Outreach (MCO) with the hope that we can bring joy to others during the holiday season.

Christmas is a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us, in addition to providing healing and renewed strength. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born; His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. We are excited to be able to share in the joy of the Christmas season at school and with our greater St. Matthew community.

While COVID continues to create trials and tribulations, it also continues to provide many lessons and helps us appreciate the times we are in school, when we can embrace in a hug, and use group work as a learning tool. Most importantly, I am thankful for the amazing support system of families who have chosen a Catholic education for their child(ren), as well as this faith community who serves as our spiritual connection.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and many blessings during this holiday season!

Amy Conlon, Principal



Together We Can...

REVITALIZE OUR COMMUNITY

Merry Christmas to you and your family! As Catholics, we celebrate a whole season of Christmas! If your family is looking for a way to extend the spirit of generosity through the rest of the Christmas season, perhaps consider a gift to the capital campaign. Another option would be to ask family and friends to support the campaign in lieu of a Christmas gift. We are so thankful for your generosity so far in helping us reach the halfway point!

Save the Date!



St. Matthew Mardi Gras 2022

Saturday, February 26, 2022

This annual event is the official kick off of our centennial celebration!

It will be virtual including the offerings we know and love:

live auction, raffle, silent auction items, and more.

Exciting details to follow!

You can make online donations here:

<https://stmatthewcr.org/donate/>

If you're interested in volunteering,

please contact us at

mardigras@stmatthewcr.org