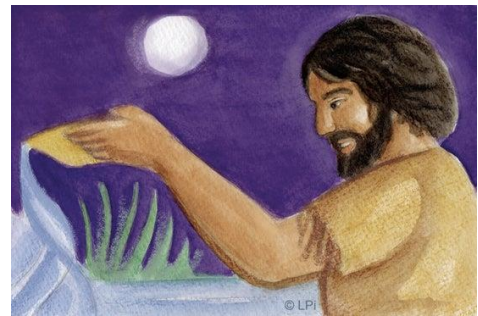


ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST PARISH



"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."
Colossians 3:15



A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. — Jn 1:6-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

Sat. Dec	12	5:00pm - Tom & JoAnn Stock †
Sun. Dec	13	9:30am - Edward Forget
		11:00am - St. Matthew Families

MASSES THIS WEEK

Tues. Dec	15	9:00am - Sean Doneen †
Wed. Dec	16	9:00am - Special Intention
Thur. Dec	17	9:00am - Paul Galloway
Fri. Dec	18	9:00am - Michael Bevan †

MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

Sat. Dec	19	5:00pm - Mavis Money †
Sun. Dec	20	9:30am - Mary Grange †
		11:00am - St. Matthew Families

CHURCH INFORMATION

We continue to livestream daily and weekend masses. **Church donations** may be placed in the baskets at the entrance/exit to church or taken to the parish office or mailed. We are looking to set up a new drop off box. **Thank you!**

NEW ADDRESS

All mail for our church and parish office should be addressed to: 12330 S. 36th Street, Bellevue, NE 68123. **NOTE:** This is especially for those who have their donations mailed from their financial institution. Thank you for your cooperation.z

GIFTS OF STOCK TO ST. MATTHEW

If you wish to gift stocks to St. Matthew Parish, please contact our client associate for Merrill Lynch: Kelsey Nealon 402-496-5146. If possible, please have your broker include YOUR NAME on memos and all corresponding paperwork to help identify from whom transfers have been received.

Campaign Prayer

Please join the prayer team in reciting the campaign prayer, at home, on a daily basis with your family. Extra prayer cards are in the narthex and in both the school and parish offices.

Cares Act – Federal Income Tax Benefits

Passed to provide emergency funding due to the March 2020 Covid-19 national shutdown, the Cares Act includes income tax benefits for anyone making a charitable donation in 2020. The Act allows for a greater deduction against Adjusted Gross Income, whether or not an individual/couple itemizes on their federal tax return. These specific tax benefits are set to expire on January 1, 2021. In considering year-end giving, please consult with an income tax advisor as to your potential benefit.

SECOND COLLECTION SCHEDULE

All checks made out to St. Matthew

December 12/13	Religious Retirement
December 19/20	Maintenance

If you are not using envelopes, please write your envelope number and designated fund (e.g. Black/Indian Mission etc.) in the memo line. If you no longer wish to receive envelopes, just



FAITH DIRECT

Consider e-giving. Visit www.faithdirect.net simply

click "Give Now" and enter our church code: NE489. Or simply call 1-866-507-8757. You can give a one-time gift or sign up for recurring gifts.

TEXT TO GIVE OPTION

To securely make a gift, TEXT a dollar amount to
402-809-4948

You will be asked to complete a one-time registration page with your billing and contact information. After this registration, you can give any time by texting a dollar amount to our phone number. To make it easier, save this number as a contact in your phone for future giving.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Planning meeting is the first Monday each month; general membership meeting is the third Monday each month. Meetings are at 7:00 pm in the new parish administration Bldg..

All Knights are invited, and welcome to attend both meetings. *If you are not receiving emails, check your spam folder.*

If you are interested in joining or want more information, please contact Dave Boone, Grand Knight, at 402-291-1493 or dbruceb1@gmail.com.

† † † † † † † †

Need a ride to Church?

Contact Butch Songcuan 402-933-1646

† † † † † † † †

Columbian Squires Chief Counselor

Phil Earsley 402-214-7877

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Health Care Items are available, for loan, from the Knights. Available items: wheelchairs, electric wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and a home-use oxygenator. **Please Note:** If you have borrowed medical equipment and are no longer using it, please contact Phil McEvoy @ 402-689-6457 or at prmevoy@gmail.com for information on how to return it.



WWG

WOMEN WORKING FOR GOD

We are again having a food drive for the Women's shelter in Bellevue and Christmas Dinner. Due to Covid, we are asking for gift cards to Walmart. If you wish to donate, contact Cindy Brazeal, 402-312-7101 or cbrazeal81@gmail.com. Or you may send gift cards to Safe Haven, %Julie Fagan, PO Box 1612, Bellevue, NE 68005.

SCRIP GIFT CARDS

Last week's rebate: \$237.49

Thank you for your support of our parish scrip program. Scrip may still be ordered online. For information, contact Sue Mailhot at samailhot@archomaha.org.

<https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/>



COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

December Collection:

Warm gently used clothes – socks, shirts, shoes, coats, gloves, and hats will be very much appreciated. The warm clothes will be donated to the Stephen Center. These can be placed in the blue bin at the school or the west entrance when you come into church. Thanks for your continued support. November donations 82 lbs, to Stephen Center and 85 lbs to Sienna Francis House.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR CLEANING OUR CHURCH

Teams are being put together to vacuum, dust, and sweep on a weekly basis. We hope to have several teams. If you are interested, contact Sue Mailhot, samailhot@archomaha.org. With 5 or 6 people to a team, it would take about an hour and a half to clean



SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021

ENROLLMENT OPEN!

Enrollment for the 20-21 school year is open for all families.

Contact the school – 402-291-2030

JOB OPENINGS

St. Matthew School is looking for a qualified individual to work in Extended Care. Hours are from 3-6. If you are interested, please contact Barb White-brwhite@schools.archomaha.org



EUCHARIST ADORATION

Exposition of the Eucharist is now every Friday of the month from 6:00am Friday to 8:00am Saturday. Reminder: If you are unable to keep your commitment, please contact a

sub. Contact Donna Buell or Phil McEvoy if you would like to participate regularly or substitute as needed. Donna Buell at BUELLDONNAJM@GMAIL.COM
Phil McEvoy at PRMCEVOY@GMAIL.COM

USHERS NEEDED!!

We are asking for more people to volunteer to be an usher. Five ushers are needed for each mass. Contact the parish office if you are interested in helping.

SAFETY---SAFETY---SAFETY

The parish of Saint Matthew's Safety Board has established **Security** and **Medical Teams** who are on duty at weekend masses whose mission is to help our parishioners in a medical situation and to keep them safe. We thank all our members who have stepped forward to assist in this regard. More of our parishioners are needed to help us out. Those interested in finding out more about our efforts, please contact:

Security - Greg Stoiber (402 -203-3685) or Dick Lewis (402 301-5849)

Medical - Mark Lockwood (402 215-7835) or Amy Adams (402 689-1093)

All parish members at least 18 years old are eligible to participate.



FAMILY BASED CATECHESIS (FBC)

Religious Formation for the Entire Family. All parishioners are welcome to attend St. Matthew's Family-Based Catechesis (FBC). Sessions for the entire parish are typically on the **First Wednesday** of every month from 6:30p to 7:45p. This year's FBC focus will be on the fourth part of the Catechism of the Catholic Church--"Christian Prayer." Prayer is an essential gift from God that we've been created for and called to participate in so that we may deepen our bond with Him who is Love. St. Teresa of Calcutta said "'Prayer makes your heart bigger, until it is capable of containing the gift of God himself. Prayer begets faith, faith begets love, and love begets service on behalf of the poor.'" Come to this year's FBC sessions for opportunities for yourself, and your family, to grow more deeply in love with God through prayer. You can find more information about FBC on the parish website, or by contacting Deacon Mark at mhwhite@archomaha.org. We will be following COVID-19 safety guidelines for the youth and adult sessions.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

GET SIGNED UP FOR YOUR FREE FORMED ACCOUNT!

Visit FORMED.org, click "Sign Up", click "I belong to a Parish or Organization", type in "St. Matthew The Evangelist" (12210 S. 36th St., Ste A Bellevue, NE), click "next", create your FREE New Account. Enjoy the Catholic faith On Demand. Thousands of movies, programs, audio talks and books instantly. Wonderful content for kids and families. FREE App also available.

WEEKLY SUNDAY HOLY HOUR.

Join your fellow parishioners in a weekly Holy Hour on **Sunday** evenings from **5 to 6p**. During the Holy Hour we adore our Lord in Eucharistic Exposition, offer our prayers as a community, and close with Evening Prayer (Vespers) and Benediction. A Sunday evening Holy Hour and Vespers is *not just a randomly scheduled event*. According to Church tradition, parishes are encouraged to join in community for the Liturgy of the Hours, *especially the Evening Prayer on Sundays* (Sacrosanctum Concilium). Accordingly, we as the St. Matthew's Catholic Community join our prayers, in union with the universal church, for the mission of the Church--the salvation of souls. Come offer your prayers for this intention, as well as your own, in the presence of Jesus during this Holy Hour of Exposition. If you have any questions, contact Deacon Mark (mhwhite@archomaha.org).



LOVING LIFE MINISTRY PADRE PIO WINDOW UPDATE

The LIFE Runners race to lead the funding of the Saint Pio window continues. We now have \$15,264. The total cost for the window is \$36,000, so we still have a way to go. Thank you so much to all those who have already contributed!! Our finish line date is January 29, 2021. If every St. Matthew family would contribute \$50, we would quickly and easily fund the last window for our beautiful new church. Place contributions in the church collection in an envelope marked "Padre Pio window" or mail/drop off at parish or school office. Make checks payable to LIFE Runners with "Padre Pio window" in the memo. St. Padre Pio, pray for us!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS If anyone would like to help our family of 5 and/or our single mom that we continue to support, please contact Janice Todd at 402-871-4600 or janicetoddcmc@msn.com. Pampers diapers size 4, any diapers size 3 and 4, Enfamil formula, or Target/Wal-Mart gift cards are always helpful and gratefully appreciated. Thank you for remembering and praying for those in need.

LIFE Runners Not a teammate yet? Please join our St. Matthew Church or School LIFE Runners chapter at liferunners.org. Running is optional! ☺ Sign up, order your "REMEMBER The Unborn" jersey, then wear it in public to impact hearts and minds for saving lives.

PRAYER VIGIL Thank you to those who prayed at the abortion facility on Friday. Please mark your calendar for our next monthly prayer vigil on Fri, Jan 8, from 10:00-11:00am. We always encourage you to pray on any Thurs, Fri or Sat, when the Bellevue abortion facility is open (1002 W. Mission Ave). Let us bring hope and be a joyful presence of love to mothers, fathers and families looking for help in the face of a desperate time, be the light of Christ in our community, and pray for the conversion of Carhart and the workers.

Let there arise to God the Creator a heartfelt and worldwide prayer on behalf of life.

Reflection: Prayer is the opposite dynamic of "pro-choice" or "choice to die," because those ideas assert the primacy of the individual, while prayer acknowledges the primacy of God.

Prayer for life, moreover, does not simply ask God to end the culture of death but commits us to be active in fighting for the vulnerable.



Total Pledges:	282
Pledged:	\$2,297,981.00
Total Collected:	\$2,501,831.47

CAMPUS WIDE IT/AV COMMITTEE:

The Parish is forming a committee to oversee the management of Information Technology, Audio and Visual systems across the campus to ensure we maintain our state of the art systems and have consistency across the school and new building systems. We are interested in individuals who have expertise in networking, video systems, audio systems and computer systems. Contact Rick Holdcroft, rholdcroft@cox.net, 402-350-4097 for more information.

PATHWAY BRICKS

As an ongoing fundraiser, Pathway Bricks are being sold for \$100. These bricks will be placed in a special area. You may personalize your brick in any way that is meaningful to you. Simply fill out the form located in the Commons or pick one up in the office. Be a part of OUR Pathway, OUR church family, OUR History and, most importantly OUR future! You may also order a brick by clicking the link on our website, under 'Pathway to Our Church'.

CAMPUS WIDE LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE:

The Parish is forming a committee to oversee the maintenance of the landscape across the entire campus. If you enjoy working the ground, gardening, maintaining sprinklers, cutting grass, etc, consider joining this group. Contact Teresa Metzger, Greg Stoiber or Brian Carney for more information.

ALL OF OUR STAINED GLASS WINDOWS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED!

FOUNDATION FAMILIES



Families who have made a pledge of at least \$1000 to the "Upon this Rock" Capital Campaign to build our new church, and have contributed at least \$1000 toward that pledge are our 'Foundation Families'! It is not too late to qualify, all one has to do is meet

these criteria by the end of the campaign which is **December 31, 2020**. Foundation Families will be recognized by name, in the Narthex of the new building. Further, they will receive a special "Foundation Family" coin. If you have not received your coin, please stop by the parish office.

2019 COMMEMORATIVE COINS AVAILABLE



The new coins are now available for purchase in the parish office. Coins are \$10. Cases are \$1. *Artists: Elliott Cook, Side 1 & Rose Black, Side 2*

2018 COIN STILL AVAILABLE

There are still a few of our first annual commemorative coins available. All profits benefit the new church. Just stop in the parish office to purchase. \$10 per coin.

Artist: Bryson Banks



INVITATION FOR YOU

It is true Christ is Risen, but you can live all your life as in a tomb: unhappy, afraid of the future, doubtful, slave of occasional pleasures, somewhat frustrated.

Or you can enjoy the new life of the **RISEN CHRIST**, assured by God's love, tasting Heaven, overcoming fears, savoring victory.

You don't believe it? Come and See! Catechesis for adults and youth (11 years and up) to rediscover your Baptismal treasure. Come and Listen to the Good News. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the church.

NEW SCRIPTURE STUDY!

Looking for a way to deepen your understanding of the Scripture readings you hear proclaimed at Mass each weekend? Join us for a lectionary-based study which incorporates lectio divina, Ignatian contemplation, and group discussion to reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings. Using the book, *Ponder*, from Little Rock Scripture Study, we will discover how the Word of God applies to our lives today.

This study will be conducted via Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 PM. Contact Susan Tracy via email: srtracy2@icloud.com, or by text message: 402-630-9938 in order to get a book (approximate cost \$20) and to be put on the Zoom invitation list. Join at any time during the year, and attend as often as you are able. All are welcome—no prior Bible study experience needed!

ST. MATTHEW FOOD BANK UPDATE:

With the opening of our new church and new ***opportunities to serve our community, we have made*** some updates to our Food Bank program.

One Food Bank wagon is located in the new church (positioned near the restrooms)

One Food Bank wagon remains in the east school commons entrance.

We have begun a direct support effort for the Mater Filius House located in north Bellevue. There is a special collection box located near the school commons Food Bank wagon with contact/delivery information and a wish list. A Mater Filius wish list is also attached to the Food Bank wagon in the church if you desire to purchase those items. A volunteer with consolidate items into the collection box in the school (To keep the church uncluttered). If anyone would like to assist in deliveries or organization of the Food Bank program, please contact Scott Eversole at 402-216-1508.

ST. MARY'S COLLECTING YOUR OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS

We are looking for the fronts of Christmas cards again! If you would like to re-cycle your Christmas cards, please drop them off at the St. Mary's church office. We will collect the cards as long as there is an interest in donating. Advent Blessings to all!

FR. MCGIVNEY CANONIZATION ARTICLE

Father Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 as a mutual aid society. He wanted to provide financial support for families having lost their primary breadwinner. He also wanted to ensure that Catholic men could remain strong in their faith. Now 138 years later, his legacy continues to inspire the nearly two million Knights today. Father McGivney died at the age of 38 from influenza thought to be a strain of coronavirus. Fr. McGivney was beatified to sainthood Oct. 31, 2020.

Fr. McGivney, the first American parish priest to be beatified, has long been a hero of working-class Catholics. His first miracle, recognized by the Vatican, occurred in 2015 where an unborn child was cured of a life-threatening case of fetal hydrops. The parents were given no hope. They prayed to Father McGivney and the baby, Mikey Schachle, is now 5 years old.

A second miracle is needed to advance Father McGivney's cause for canonization to Sainthood. We offer this novena to support and advance the cause for sainthood for Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney. The novena to be said at the end of the rosary each week can be found below.

PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF FATHER MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called our priest, father, Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be



HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Masses

**Thursday, Dec. 24 ~ 4:00 pm
6:00 pm**

Friday, Dec. 25 ~ 10:00 am

Solemnity of Mary (New Year's)

Thursday, Dec 31 – 5:00 pm

Friday, Jan 1 – 10:00 am

Individual Confession

Saturdays 4:15 pm

Wednesdays 6:00 pm

Sundays after 11:00 am Mass

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM ST. MATTHEW PARISH?

EMAIL: We make every attempt to limit our emails to relevant information that affects all parishioners. Call the parish office at 402-292-7418 or email plbanks@archomaha.org to receive the parish emails.

Please note that our system allows one (1) email address per family for general information. You may enter additional individual emails for each family member in order to receive information that is more specific, e.g. parishioners who are liturgical ministers may each have their own email address listed.

INSTANT NOTIFICATIONS: You may select specific organizations to receive instant messages from through our parish app. Some examples of notification groups are: Daily Mass Schedule, Set-Up/Take Down Crew, Prayer Warriors, Religious Ed, Security Team etc. See our website for more information or stop in the office for help downloading the app, and setting up your specific notifications.

DIVINE MERCY IMAGE

Father Leo would like to share this video with you. It is called “Let’s Seal the Doorposts”. It is an encouraging message to post the Divine Mercy Image on your front door. Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ot3tVMXnOzI>

CALENDAR LOTTERY WINNERS CONGRATULATIONS!



Dec	6	Michelle Wagner	\$50
Dec	7	Linda Wagner	\$25
Dec	81	Jasmine Cashin	\$100
Dec	9	Marcia Klein	\$25
Dec	10	Vannessa Ramos	\$25
Dec	11	Carmen Klein	\$25
Dec	12	Angelica McFall	\$25

*A check will automatically be mailed to all winners,
There is no need to claim your prize.*

ST. MATTHEW CALENDAR LOTTERY

See Ed Janeczko in the Narthex or purchase your lottery calendar tickets in the Parish/School office anytime. This is a fundraiser for St. Matthew School and Parish. 365 daily prizes and 12 special monthly prizes, awarded for each day/month of 2021. Prizes range from \$25 to \$500. Cost is \$25.00 per Ticket. Winners need not be present to win. Drawing will be held NLT December 31, 2020. All ticket holders have 377 chances to win, as each ticket is eligible for each and every daily and monthly prize throughout the year. Sales will continue through the late December 2020 or the date of drawing. No more than 1,500 tickets will be sold; late entries will be returned. As of December 8th, we have sold 496 tickets, 89½% of our breakeven point 554 tickets with 3 weeks and 58 tickets to go.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

First, thank you for your continued support of the St. Matthew’s SVdP.. This time of year is particularly difficult for people who are struggling with emotional and financial challenges.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

Please reach out to the church office at 402-292-7418 and one of our Vincentians will contact the individual/family

BREAKFAST BURRITOS!!

Knights of Columbus will have the breakfast burritos available in the Narthex (entrance to the church). December 19 and 20 after all three Masses. Free will donations.





ST. MATTHEW MOBILE APP

Download from the homepage of our website or:

iPhone users text: ParishApp1 to 555888
Android users text: ParishApp2 to 555888

---Enjoy quick access to current community updates, bulletins, ministry schedules, Faith Direct giving, daily readings, new church updates and much, much more!

---You can also select to receive notifications from the parish or specific parish groups! To receive notifications, select 'Allow' when prompted while downloading the app. If you wish to do this at a later date, you may do this in your phone's settings (instruction links are available on our website, as well).

--*Note: You must have notifications turned on in your phone's settings and the app, to receive instant notifications.*

HOW TO RECEIVE INSTANT NOTIFICATIONS FROM SELECT PARISH GROUPS:

If you'd like to receive instant notifications from the parish office, or specific groups follow these steps in our parish app:

1. Open your app.
2. Click on 'More' in the bottom right corner.
3. Click on 'Message Settings'.
4. Click each group you wish to receive messages from.
(*Green means you will receive instant messages from that group.*)

Groups that you may elect to receive messages from are: *Religious Ed, Set-up/Take Down, Special Events, PTO, Security Team, Knights, Extra Help, Daily Mass, Prayer Warriors and General (Parish Office Notifications).* Note: *These are groups subject to change.*

Please also check for updates in the app store/google play to ensure best performance.

**If you need help, please call or stop by the parish office
anytime between M-F 9am-3:30pm.**

BAKER'S COMMUNITY REWARD PROGRAM

We received \$742.65 for last quarter's rebate!

Thank you to the 164 families
who participate in this program.

Remember this does not cost you anything or take
away from any other reward points you receive.
Consider linking your rewards card to St. Matthew
at: www.bakersplus.com/communityrewards

1. Click on "I'm a Customer" and sign in to
your online account, or create a new account if
needed;
2. Select "Community Rewards";
3. Click on "Enroll Now";
4. Enter PF663 and select "St. Matthew"

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

AMAZON SMILE

We received \$137.43 for last quarter's rebate!

If you order from Amazon, please consider using
Smile.Amazon and designate St. Matthew as your
charity. Or use this direct link every time you shop
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch47-0800122>. Amazon
donates 0.5% of your purchase price to St. Matthew.
Thank you for your support!