

Bulletin
December
5, 2021



A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

- Lk 3:4

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



Holy Day Mass Schedule

Immaculate Conception

December 7 No 9:00am morning mass
6:00pm

December 8 9:00am
6:00pm,
Reconciliation following mass

MASS INTENTIONS If you wish a Mass celebrated for a special need or the welfare of someone, please email Patsy at: pahart@archomaha.org or call 402-292-7418. Mass Intentions can be scheduled a year out. We are now scheduling intentions through October of 2022. We may also send Mass intentions to the Archdiocese to have them sent to missions. These masses may not be able to be offered on a specific date. Even if we don't witness the mass, all spiritual graces are still conferred.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Currently, Exposition of the Eucharist is every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday starting at 3:00pm on Thursday and ending at 8:00am on Saturday. We would like to add on additional days and hours, so even more people can have the opportunity to spend time with Jesus.

If you have an interest in a weekly adoration hour that also works with your schedule or in being a substitute, please contact Donna Buell or Phil McEvoy via Flocknote. Text SMTE to 84576 or connect with us online at matthewbellevue.flocknote.com

ARCHBISHOP ANNUAL

APPEAL

Recently you received a letter from Archbishop Lucas inviting your support of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Please give prayerful consideration to your response. Our financial goal for this year's Annual Appeal is \$42,734.00 and our participation goal is 24.3%. Together, through the help of the Holy Spirit, we will create a culture of unity, evangelization, leadership and mercy.

FLOCKNOTE

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US!

Receive Parish information and have access to ministry notifications. Text SMTE to 84576 or connect with us online. Stmatthewbellevue.flocknote.com



Continuing Our Journey

Commitment:

\$2,249,083.00

Pledges Collected:

\$ 786,865.78

Second Collection Schedule

All checks made out to St. Matthew

December 11 Retirement Fund
for the Religious

Envelopes can be found in the pews.

December 18 Maintenance

If you are not using envelopes, please write your envelope number and designated fund (e.g. Maintenance etc.) in the memo line. If you no longer wish to receive envelopes, contact the parish office.

Mass Intentions

December 4

5:00pm St. Matthew Families

December 5

9:00am Marge Nicola †

11:00am Marcel Molins †

December 7

6:00pm Harumi Reardon †

Carlos Perez

December 8

9:00am Henry Stoiber †

6:00pm Pat Clapp †

December 9

9:00am Jacob Williamson †

December 10

9:00am Special Intention †

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS SCHEDULE

December 15, 6:30pm-7:45pm

Christmas Break

December 20 to 29

Classes will resume in January

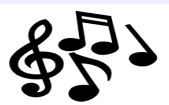
WEEKLY SUNDAY HOLY HOUR

Join your fellow parishioners in a weekly Holy Hour on Sunday evenings from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. 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 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. Contact Deacon Mark via Flocknote (see Flocknote insert) with questions.



DAILY PARISH ROSARY

Join us for a daily rosary, Monday through Friday starting at 4:15pm. All are welcome!



LOOKING FOR MUSICIANS!

- Vocalists
- Instrumentalists

Needed for all masses and combined music groups for Christmas masses. Contact Suzi Brunner via Flocknote. with questions and to sign up.



Peace I leave you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 14:27

SUNDAY PREP BIBLE STUDY

Join us for one hour of food, fun, history, and preparation toward understanding Sunday readings. This Bible Study is held Wednesdays, 6:30pm, in the Narthex. Deacon Tom Deall facilitates the bible study.

PONDER: CONTEMPLATIVE BIBLE STUDY (YEAR C)

The first Sunday of Advent begins a new liturgical year—Year C, which features the Gospel according to Luke. Marked by the compassion of Jesus, the gospel stories of Luke demonstrate the universal nature of Jesus' mission. Luke's focus on God's faithfulness will encourage you to trust. Other themes include mercy and forgiveness, joy, the journey, the role of the Holy Spirit and the place of prayer. Join us as we dive deeper into the lectionary readings every Tuesday evening via Zoom. We pray with the Sunday readings and listen to what God is revealing to us. Our prayer method is Lectio Divina, but we also use Ignatian Contemplation and our own life experiences, along with lively and life-giving discussion. If you would like to join, contact Susan Tracy via Flocknote and I will send you a link to the Zoom meeting and also make sure you have a book. This is an ongoing study, meeting every Tuesday evening from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, but you are welcome to drop in whenever you are available.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH The year of St. Joseph ends this Wed, Dec 8. "Through that sacred bond of charity which united you [St. Joseph] to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the fatherly love with which you embraced the Child Je-

LOVING LIFE MINISTRY

THANK YOU! Thank you to all who supported the Knights of Columbus burrito sales last weekend. The funds raised will go towards student LIFE Runners jerseys for school chapters in the Omaha archdiocese, including our St. Matthew School Chapter. Thank you for your generous support!

LIFE Runners Not a teammate yet? Join the largest Pro-Life team in the world, now with more than 17,300 teammates! LIFE Runners use prayer and teamwork to defend Life from conception to natural death. Running optional. Faith required. Sign up to get your "REMEMBER The Unborn – Jer 1:5" jersey and team updates/devotions at liferunners.org/signup. Invite others to join us. All In Christ for Pro-Life! Contact Kevin and Janice Todd via Flocknote.

CONTINUE PRAYER "On Dec. 1 the U.S. Supreme Court began hearing arguments in the case Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health concerning a law in Mississippi which bans abortion at 15 weeks. In taking this case, the Supreme Court will determine whether states can have more freedom to limit abortion and not be bound by the judicial edicts which have governed abortion laws for nearly 50 years. As [people] of faith, we are called to offer prayers for the attorneys presenting this case, for the justices who will decide it, and for our country, which will be Impacted by it." (K of C) Please continue praying for this most important Pro-Life case!!!

PRAYER VIGIL Our next vigil is this Fri, Dec 10, 10:00-11:00am, at the Bellevue abortion facility (1002 W Mission). We also encourage you to come pray for/with us each Saturday morning, 7:30-8:30am. When the facility is open, we do sidewalk outreach to moms arriving for appointments; if it is closed, we pray for the end to abortion. 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

REFLECTION: There is a saying that "love has legs." In other words, the very essence of love is action. Phillip not only told Nathaniel about Jesus, but he invited him and brought him to see Jesus. This is a perennial challenge for us as Christians in Pro-Life ministry. Is there enough evidence in our actions to convict us as followers of Jesus who are seeking to protect and promote life? We must use our gifts, like Philip did.

TODAY'S CHALLENGE: Do one action of deed and truth that reflects your deep conviction of the value of human life. Pray at an abortion facility, thank a Pro-Life doctor, donate clothes to a shelter, etc. (LIFE Runners Daily Devotions by Dr. Patrick Castle & Bernadette Costello visit www.liferunners.org/gear)

GET SIGNED UP FOR YOUR FREE FORMED ACCOUNT!

Registering for FORMED is easier than ever! See website homepage under "parish app links".

BEST ADVENT EVER

What Draws You To The

Light?

There are things that draw you toward the light. And there are things that draw you into the darkness. So much of the world wants to draw you into the darkness of worry, fear, procrastination, negative self-talk, toxic relationships the list goes on. This Advent, discover and choose the things that draw you to the light! Get inspiring daily video reflections sent straight to your inbox—for free. Taken from Matthew Kelly's life-changing new book, *Life Is Messy*, each reflection will help you infuse your life with prayer, reading, authentic love of self, genuine friendship, beautiful kindness and so much more! And when Christmas arrives, you'll be ready to share the light you've gathered along the way! Visit dynamiccatholic/advent.html to sign up.





St. Matthew - Individual

Saturdays - 4:30 pm

Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 - 6:00 pm

Sundays after the 11:00 Mass

St. Mary's in Bellevue - Individual

Thursdays, December 2, 9, 16, 23 - noon - 1:00 pm

Tuesdays, November 30, December 14 & 21 - 5:00 - 6:00 pm

St. Columbkille in Papillion - Reconciliation Service

December 14 - 6:30 pm

December 21 - 6:30 pm



Christmas Masses

Friday, December 24, 4:00 pm

Friday/Saturday, December 25, Midnight

Saturday, December 25, 10:00 am

Saturday, **NO 5:00 pm Mass**

New Year's Masses

Friday, December 31 - 5:00 pm

Saturday, January 1 - 10:00 am



Thank you to all that donated to The Safe Haven Women's Shelter Thanksgiving dinner and filling up their pantry.

WWG Women

Working for God

Wishing everyone a Blessed Advent and Christmas season!

All ladies of the parish are invited to attend our meeting on Tuesday, January 18th in the school commons. Join us! If anyone needs a ride to the meeting, contact Shirrel Medara. Please direct any questions to Shirrel Medara via Flocknote (see Flocknote insert). Hope to see you then!



Community

Outreach Ministry

December Collection:

New men's and women's underwear, socks, and gently used or new clothes and shoes. All items 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 collection was 164 pounds of food and clothing to the Stephen Center. The school donated 153 pounds of food to Safe Haven from their Spirit-wear day.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Monthly Officer Meetings are held the first Monday of each month. The general Member's Meeting is the third Monday of the month. Meetings are 7:00pm in the new church conference room (and via Zoom). All Knights are invited and welcome to attend either meeting. If you are not receiving emails with general council information, contact Mark Kyriss to ensure your email address is current. If you need information to become a Knight, contact Mark Kyriss, Grand Knight or Membership Director, Dale Bauermeister, via Flocknote (see Flocknote insert).

Need a ride to Church? Contact Butch Songcuan 402-933-1646

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

POVERTY- we hear the word but most of us will never experience it. According to the U.S. Census bureau, 13.4% of the US population are living below the poverty line. In numbers, that means 42.5 million Americans are struggling with expenses. According to a Forbes online article, "U.S. Poverty Rate By State In 2021," Nebraska ranks 16th out of 50 states, with 50 being the highest poverty rate.

This week, your Vincentians helped 2 local families in financial crisis. One family was affected by COVID and needed rental assistance. The other, a young single mother, needed assistance on multiple levels and was provided both financial and referral agency assistance.

Like what we do? Come and join us on the First Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm at St Matthew, in the lower level conference room.



HEALTH CARE

PROFESSIONALS NEEDED!

We would like to identify a pool of medical personnel that would be available to provide care, if needed, at each mass. If interested, please contact Mark Lockwood or Amy Adams via Flocknote (see Flocknote insert).



Knitters and crocheters who prayerfully hand make prayer shawls for parishioners and community members in need of a comforting reminder of God's love for them. All shawls are well-crafted and blessed, then given to anyone in need of God's comfort. The next meeting is January, 24 at 2:00pm in the conference room.



Greeters

SEEKING MASS

GREETERS

The Evangelization Committee is seeking parish members who would be willing to welcome worshippers in the narthex before all of the weekend masses. It is a small commitment which can reap great rewards! If you are interested, please contact Mary Lomax via Flocknote (see Flocknote insert).



SECURITY DOORS – LOCKED

As part of the plan to protect parishioners against any form of malicious entry into the church during mass services all church doors are automatically locked 5 minutes after the scheduled mass start time. Entry after this time will be made by the security personnel on duty.

All doors are unlocked one hour prior to the scheduled mass for pre-mass activities.



OUTREACH MINISTRIES

06

HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING DRIVE

"Do a good turn daily" is the Scouts BSA slogan. This year, Troop 231 in Bellevue is living that slogan by recycling old holiday lights! These lights are recyclable because of the small amount of copper within the wires. There will be a collection bin in the church lobby from November 15 to January 15. Please bring any lights you no longer need and help the troop do its good turn! Contact Barb Bittner bbittner68@gmail.com.



WWG CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

The WWG ladies group provides Christmas gifts of toys, clothes, and accessories for Safe Haven Women's Shelter in Bellevue each December. We are hoping that your family will choose one of the tags on our Christmas tree in the narthex. Then purchase the item listed and return it unwrapped to the narthex. We have 11 children ages 2 to 15 years and 7 mothers. Often the families come to the shelter with just the clothes on their backs. The items must be new and brought to the church by noon Sunday Dec. 19, and put unwrapped in the bins by the tree. Thanks for your generosity to these families.

VETERAN'S HOME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

EMHC to take the Eucharist to the Veterans, Sundays at 10:30-11:15am, Rotating Schedule. Contact Philip McEvoy via Flocknote (see Flocknote insert) Not an EMHC? Father can give you a temporary Mandation.

SPOUSE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

If you are interested in participating in a quarterly widow/widowers support group, please contact Mary Fran Williamson via Flocknote (see Flocknote insert).

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Anyone in need of medical equipment, cane, walker, etc. please contact Phil McEvoy via Flocknote.



YOUTH



CHRISTMAS CONCERT- Dec. 6 , 6:30pm Our PK-8th graders will be holding their Christmas concert in the church. All are invited!



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Join us Wednesday, December 15 at 9:00am for a beautiful procession celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe. Everyone is Invited

ST. MATTHEW ADVISORY TEAM (SMAT)- The SMAT is looking for individuals to help with alumni relations and grant writing. If you are willing to help, please contact Principal Angie Palmer- principal@stmattschool.com

PARA NEEDED St. Matthew School is looking for a para to work in 1st grade from 9:30-12:00 M-F. Duties include: supervising students, assisting in small groups, lunch duty, recess duty. Please contact Principal Angie Palmer if you are interested. principal@stmattschool.com



Come out and cheer on your Cardinals! The basketball season starts this weekend. Game schedules can be found on the CYO and PAL websites. Check back here for updates and more information as the season goes on..



Reconciliation Schedule**St. Matthew - Individual**

Saturdays - 4:30 pm

December 1, 8, 15, 22 - 6:00 pm

Sundays after the 11:00 Mass

St. Mary's in Bellevue - Individual, December 2, 9, 16, 23
noon - 1:00 pmNovember 30, December 14 & 21
5:00 - 6:00 pm**St. Columbkille in Papillion - Reconciliation Service**

December 14 - 6:30 pm

December 21 - 6:30 pm

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS
TO THE PARISH**

Memorial donations for the parish should be made payable to St. Matthew, with the memo line designating specifics (i.e., Building Fund, General Use, etc., and name of honoree or deceased). Checks made out to families or other organizations are not acknowledged by the parish Memorials Committee unless St. Matthew is the payee.

PATHWAY BRICKS

The most recent brick order has arrived. They will be put in place Spring 2022. Bricks can still be ordered. Contact the Parish Office.

Bulletin Submission Deadline

Submit information for the upcoming bulletin by 12:00pm
Tuesday to : acmcfall@archomaha.org

Submissions are subject to edits, review and approval.

**CALENDAR LOTTERY
WINNERS**

Nov. 28	Tim & Pat Tarnick	\$50
Nov. 29	Gabe Roper	\$25
Nov. 30	Ed Rausch	\$25
Nov. Special	Mary Beth Shelton	\$ 87
Dec 1	Thomas Mlnarik	\$25
Dec 2	Scott Morris	\$25
Dec 3	Paige Nicola	\$25
Dec 4	Carole Yanovich	\$25

*A CHECK IS AUTOMATICALLY MAILED
OUT TO ALL WINNERS.*



*Lincoln Reginald
LeBrun*

Baptized November 20, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS**Now thru December 12
After mass**

Christ in Christmas Card
Sales

**December 7
7:00pm**

Light Up For Christ

December 11 & 12

Holy Land Olive Wood Art

**December 15
9:00am**

Procession for Our Lady of
Guadalupe

December 19

Parish Wide Christmas
Caroling

**BUY YOUR
CHRISTMAS CARDS**

The Knights of Columbus will be selling 'Keep Christ in Christmas' Christmas cards in the narthex after all masses from until December 12th. They will not be able to order any additional cards, so what they have on hand is all there is, and sales will be first-come-first-served.

**MARDI GRAS
SAVE THE DATE:**

FEBRUARY 26, 2022

The Mardi Gras committee is asking you to consider donating items for our silent and oral auctions. Items such as weekend or week long time shares, tickets to games or concerts, airline and hotel points, golf outings or dinners, symphony tickets, gift cards, new unopened items for camping, gardening, fishing, etc.. Monetary donations also accepted. Please contact Joann Price at 402-297-1027 if you have questions.

Magnificat-Omaha Advent Brunch

All women are invited to brunch on Saturday, December 4, 9:30am—1pm
St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, for reservations:
www.MagnificatOmaha.org

St. Matthew Community Dinner Nights December 2021

Sponsored by St. Matthew PTO & Athletics

- *Parents: Don't feel like cooking dinner? Take the family out instead! You get a much-deserved break while raising money for our school!
- *Eat-In: Don't forget to tell them you're from St. Matthew
- *Drive-Thru: Don't forget to tell them you're from St. Matthew
- *We DO NOT get credit without your receipts/vouchers.
- *Post this by your fridge and/or mark your calendars!

Thank you for supporting St. Matthew!



Wednesday, Dec. 8

4 - 9pm

3602 Raynor Parkway

St. Matthew Community
receives 20% of total sales
on your receipt, dine-in
or take-out

5% discount with valid military I.D



December 19th at 4 PM
Parish Christmas Carol Sing-along

Advent – a time of **hope, peace, joy** and **love**. The Advent wreath has three candles that are purple and one that is pink (or rose). The dark purple reminds us of darkness and marks a time for prayer and waiting. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent (December 19th) which is called Gaudete Sunday, meaning ‘Rejoice’ for the time of Christmas is near.

As part of this rejoicing, as a Parish we are having a Christmas Carol Sing-along for all Parishioners in the Church Sanctuary, Sunday, December 19th beginning at 4:00pm. We hope you will stay for the Holy Hour that begins at 5:00pm and then join together in the Narthex for some Christmas cookies.



Helpers wanted to decorate the church for Christmas. **Sunday, December 19 at noon.**



**RETURNING!
A ST. MATTHEW FAVORITE!
HOLY LAND OLIVE WOOD
ART.**

December 11 & 12 after all of the masses, in the Narthex.



This year's "Light Up for Christ" nativity scene lighting will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, December 7. We'll start by lighting up the nativity scene in front of the church and then move over to the School Commons, where there will be caroling, crafts, cookies and hot chocolate...and a special guest appearance by Santa! Kids, bring your parents!!

PARISH SUPPORT

SCRIP GIFT CARDS

"Makin' a list and checking it twice"

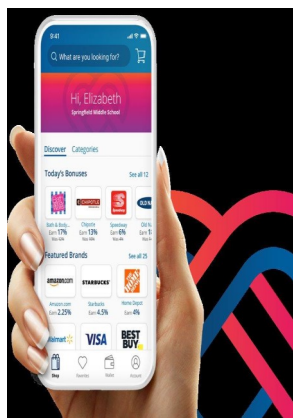
Shop for Christmas with Matt's Money gift cards!

How to get Matt's Money

Download the "Raise Right" app. It is like giving two Christmas presents in one because...

St. Matthew Church and School benefits from every purchase you make.

<https://www.stmatthewbellevue.org/scrip-matt-s-money>

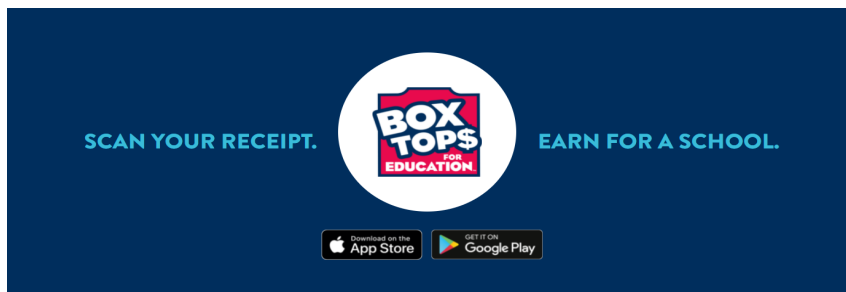


Download the
**TOGETHER
A GREATER
GOOD**
app + start tagging
your purchases today!



HOW TO TAGG

- 1 Download the TAGG mobile app.
- 2 Choose us and upload a photo of your receipt.
- 3 The business will make a donation to us at no extra cost to you!



AMAZON SMILE

We received \$204.93 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!

SCRIP GIFT CARDS

Rebate: \$58.87

Thank you for your support of our parish scrip program. To order scrip online please contact the Parish Office.

BAKER'S COMMUNITY REWARD PROGRAM

We received \$719.29 for last quarter's rebate!

Thank you to the 174 families who participate in this program. Remember this does not cost you anything or take away from any other reward points you receive. To link your rewards card to St. Matthew: 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.

FAITH DIRECT

Consider e-giving. Visit www.faithdirect.net simply click "Give Now" and enter our church code: NE489. Or 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.

ST. MATTHEW CALENDAR LOTTERY 424 of 862 tickets sold, 49 1/2% of goal

See Ed Janeczko in the Narthex or purchase in the Parish/School office. A fundraiser for St. Matthew School and Parish. 377 individual prizes throughout 2022. Prizes range from \$25 to \$500. **\$25.00 per Ticket**. Winners need not be present. Drawing to be held NLT December 31, 2021. A donation of \$25 entitles each ticket holder a chance to win one of 365 daily prizes and 12 special monthly prizes, awarded for each day/month of 2022. All ticket holders have 377 chances to win, as all are eligible for each and every daily and monthly prize for the year. Sales will continue through late December 2021 or the date of drawing; if all are sold prior to the closing date, late entries will be returned.