

Church of Saint Matthew – March 21, 2021

SAINT MATTHEW WELCOMES ALL TO OUR PARISH

New to the area, joining us for the first time or coming home again? Please contact Linda Rivera at lriviera@st-matts.org to register as a member of our parish family, we will be happy to get you signed up or welcome you back.

SOWING SEEDS OF CHANGE, BUILDING COMMUNITY

Last month parishioners received a package in the mail from St. Matthew's that included several items. One of the attachments included reflections on what has been happening since the death of George Floyd and the January 6 riots in Washington D.C. This was included because parishioners were asking what they can do to support Black and other underrepresented communities. The attachment, called "What Can I Do?", included suggestions to pray, learn, make connections, model at home, and get active.

At St. Matthew's we're committed to creating a welcoming environment where every voice is heard and valued as that of a child of God. This week marks the first time we're including a section in the bulletin with information and resources on how we can sow seeds of change to build a stronger, more caring and welcoming parish community. As we do more reading, reflecting, and praying we may also find ourselves growing in our understanding of and compassion for the experiences of our fellow human beings.

There are many books, TV programs, websites and podcasts on the topics of racism and racial healing. Parish Council members will be sharing a brief overview of books and other resources they have read or watched to help you in your choice of materials. We also invite you to share resources that you have found meaningful.

Resources will also be posted on the St. Matthew's website.

In the words of Pope Francis in June of 2020, "We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life,"

Caste by Isabel Wilkerson, reviewed by Linda Sellars.

I was excited when I heard about this book, Caste. I had read Wilkerson's Warmth of Other Suns and was impressed by her research, presentation and writing style so definitely wanted to read her next effort. The subtitle of the book, The Origins of our Discontents, speaks to her premise, that the United States, from its founding has been a caste society. She "explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines and stigma." To do this she uses stories of actual people, well known and ordinary, to illustrate how caste is experienced every day in the United States. If you want to understand how our society got to where it is today, this is a great book with which to start.

Suggestions from Karen Thompson for children's books and TV programs.

Hair Love: This is a children's illustrated book based on the Sony Pictures animated short film of the same name. This book highlights the relationship between a Black father and his daughter. A dad humorously helps out with his daughter's hair.

ColorFull: Celebrating the Colors God Gave Us – This is another illustrated children's book that features a Black grandmother explaining to her granddaughter the beautiful differences in how we are made and how we should celebrate them instead of attempting to be "colorblind". It is not entirely faith-based but mentions the concept of God creating everyone.

TV programs, suggested by Karen Thompson.

When They See Us – This four-part Netflix series is based on the story of the Central Park Five, a group of Black teenagers who were wrongfully convicted of rape and assault of a white female jogger and attacks on eight other people in 1990. This is a powerful story that may challenge you to wrestle with questions on whether we live in a just society or only a society that protects some while persecuting others.

Jim Crow of the North – This PBS documentary uses the origins of housing segregation in the Minneapolis area to examine the roots of racial disparities in this community.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

You can request prayers for yourself, family and friends by calling St. Matthew's Prayer Line 651.457.0228. You can request prayers for healing, family unhappiness, help to find a job, addiction to name a few. All requests are confidential.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

First Communion Class: Faith Formation and Community of Saints students preparing for First Communion this May should attend class on March 17 in St Matthew Church. Class is from 6:35 pm to 7:40 pm.

March Faith Formation Classes: March 17 is an at-home learning evening for all Faith Formation students in grades 1 to 10 **except** for those preparing for First Communion. Students who are not preparing for First Communion do not have in-person class on March 17. In-person classes resume for all students on March 24. There is no class for students on March 31 due to spring break. Confirmation candidates can sign up to help with the Fish Fry (and gain a service project) by emailing Janelle Rohr Janelle@st-matts.org.

EASTER FLOWERS

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Easter Flower Fund; if you are a registered parishioner you received in the mail an envelope for this purpose. If you are not a registered parishioner and want to contribute please send us your donation, the name of your loved one(s) and if it a memorial or to honour someone. Also, your name and a telephone number. Contributions are used to purchase flowers and plants to decorate the church for the Easter season.

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please remember in your prayer our parish family and friends who are ill. Pray for their recovery and for their family members who are with them and caring for them. Especially, **Pat Pendelton, Lena Moore, Michael Vasquez, Jim Swaik, Terry Koves, Jan Steinbrenner, Keith Anderson and Rita Dubuc.**

If you have a loved one you would like to add to this list, please call the Parish office, provide us with your name and the name of your loved one. We are strong as a community praying together.

CRS RICE BOWL

How is your Rice Bowl coming along? Give it a shake, is it getting heavier each day? Your daily contributions of dimes, quarters and dollars means the difference of eating or not eating a child in another country. Can you give up a fancy cup of coffee

AMAZON SMILE WORKS!!

Thanks to each person who has named St. Matt's and the charity to benefit from their shopping on Amazon. You can do it as well!!! St. Matt's receives ½ of one percent for every dollar spent. **MAKE MONEY FOR ST. MATT'S!**

A LITTLE SPIRITUAL HELP TO GET US THROUGH THESE TOUGH TIMES ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOODS ARCHDIOCESE COVID-19 ANOINTING CORPS

On your few moments throughout the day help the Covid-19 Anointing Corps by praying for the sick, their families and the priest.

Please pray two times: one Our Father for the individual suffering; one Hail Mary for the family's comfort; and one Glory Be for the priest and the medical team ministering to them. Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us. St. Roch, pray for us.

PRAYERS AND SUPPORT FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Health care workers: Catholic faithful throughout the archdiocese are dedicated to praying for you!

Visit archspm.org/covid19prayers to submit a prayer request. On this page, you may also sign up for a weekly email, watch encouraging videos, and find resources for support.

Want to join in praying for health care workers? Commit to daily prayer for health care workers by texting archspm-healthcare to 55321 or signing up at eva.us/archspm-healthcare. You will receive a weekly message with a link to names of health care workers to keep in your prayers.

ON OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

As part of your Lenten Journey consider praying daily a decade of the Rosary (one **Our Father**, ten **Hail Marys** and one **Glory Be**) each day for justice and peace in our community. You may also wish to pray this **Prayer for an End to the Sin of Racism**.

God of Heaven and Earth, you created the one human family and endowed each person with great dignity.

Aid us, we pray, in overcoming the sin of racism.

Grant us your grace in eliminating this blight from our hearts, our communities, our social and civil institutions.

Fill our hearts with love for you and our neighbor so that we may work with you in healing our land from racial injustice.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

St. Peter Claver, pray for us.

SYNOD AT HOME: TIPS & TOOLS FOR GROWING IN FAITH

New sessions posted weekly through March 18 -- Do it when it works for you!

During Lent, we often take on practices to deepen our faith lives and commitment to serving others. But once Easter comes, those practices can easily go to the wayside. How can we make those practices stick, to continue on a path toward holiness?

The Synod at Home series takes helpful videos, tips and tools for growing in faith, and pairs them with family-friendly activities based on four pillars: Prayer & Sacraments, Lifelong Learning, Generosity & Service, and Traditions & Fun. Individuals, couples and families will find their faith and relationships strengthened by Synod at Home.

Find weekly videos and materials at archspm.org/synod, sign up for emails (archspm.org/synod/updates) or access through the Synod app: text APP to 88202, then in the app search for Archdiocesan Synod.

CONSTANCE CURRIE SCHOLARSHIP

Neighborhood House is committed to making it possible for young people and adults connected with the West Side to enroll in post-secondary education.

Candidates:

Intend to graduate high school, have graduated, or have received a GED

Have lived, worked, or volunteered within 55017 at some point in their lives

Have been actively involved with Neighborhood House or the West Side

Be seeking a first-time post-secondary education pursuit.

Deadline for applications is April 9, 2021. You can download an application: <http://neighb.org/constance.currie>.

Questions: 651-789-2513 or 651-789-2500 or tfears@neighb.org

CUPPA JOE: 10 TALKS ON THE 10 WONDERS OF SAINT JOSEPH

First Tuesday of the month, March – December 2021, 4 p.m.

Cuppa Joe is a series of 10 talks by 10 theologians on the 10 wonders of Saint Joseph, taking place at 10 locations in our archdiocese entrusted to the patronage of our spiritual father. These talks will premiere the first Tuesday of the month, March – December, at 4 p.m. – just in time for your afternoon coffee. Talks will be posted on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram – and at archspm.org/synod/stjoseph/

CERENITY HUMBOLDT RESIDENCE has beautiful apartments available!

Assisted Living

We provide professional staff of nurses and other qualified caregivers provides, personalized services ranging from light daily tasks to assistance with mobility, dressing, bathing and grooming. Medication management and medical assistance are available, as are spiritual care, recreational and social activities, and transportation. Our Assisted Living currently has openings.

Memory Care

We are dedicated to caring for people who live with Alzheimer's and other related dementias. We offer hospitality, respect and love to all served in a comfortable and safe environment. With consistent caregivers, Benedictine feels like a family home with added comforts and security. Our memory care has openings.

Call today to schedule your in-person or virtual tour! (651) 220 1702

FRATELLI TUTTI

Three sessions remain: March 23, April 27, and May 25, 7-8:30 p.m. via Zoom

The Center for Mission is hosting a five-part series of presentations and discussions to dive into this very important encyclical from Pope Francis. This online series will feature specially selected speakers to lead us to discern how Fratelli Tutti can influence and enrich our lives. This series is open to all. Visit centerformission.org/whats-new/ to sign up! Contact Adam Fitzpatrick for more information at Fitzpatricka@archspm.org, or 651.291.4410.

DEACON DISCERNMENT DAY

Tuesday, March 30, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Saint Paul Seminary

A day set apart for men and their wives, if applicable, to learn more about the permanent diaconate vocation in this archdiocese. The day begins with Liturgy of the Hours Morning Prayer with current candidates in formation followed by four presentations, including lunch, and concludes with a 4 p.m. Vigil Mass with the Saint Paul Seminary Rector, Fr. Joseph Taphorn. Questions? Contact Deacon Bob Bisciglia at bobbisciglia@stthomas.edu or (651) 962-5782. Registration required (no cost) at semssp.org/idf.

SOCIETY OF

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
TWIN CITIES**

Hope in action.®

Holy Week Food Giveaway

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is holding a Holy Week Food Giveaway on Saturday, March 27, from 9:00 to 10:30 am. Boxes containing meals for a family of 4, including produce, dairy & meat/fish products, will be distributed via drive-up at 2 locations: In the parking lots at Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church, 1938 Stanford Ave., and Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 840 6th St E, in *St. Paul*.

Additionally, smaller packages will be delivered to homebound Parishioners and neighbors on March 27. If you, or someone you know would benefit by receiving a Holy Week food package, please contact Linda Rivera at the Parish Office 651.224.9793 Monday – Thursday 9:00 to 1:00 pm with your name, address and telephone number.