What is a Parish?

Father Jay Kythe

Raniero Cantalamessa, in his book The Eucharist: Our Sanctification, wrote, “The world needs parishes that are places of pilgrimage and joy and not centers that offer all kinds of services, activities, and entertainments.” This little sentence sparked many thoughts in my mind about our ministries and activities at our parishes. As I notice all the activities at a parish office, I can’t help wonder how we view our parish life. Is our parish a place of pilgrimage, a retreat, a place to get away from this crazy, mixed-up world, a refuge in the midst of a stormy sea? Or is it a place where things happen, where we do things and stay busy? I remember meeting a young man who would come into the church and pray, sometimes for hours, and cry because his life was falling apart. Even though he usually didn’t come to Sunday Mass, he felt like this was the only quiet, peaceful place in his difficult life.

Saint Mary in New Trier and Saint Mathias in Hampton once again are without a pastor. Let us pray for them during this time of transition, and let us pray for Fr. Corey Belden as he takes a leave of absence for a few months. Times like this are times to reflect on what exactly is a parish. Especially at times like this, parishes must be places of pilgrimage and joy, where Christ the Lord is our pastor, our shepherd, our King. This means that we must reflect on who we are. Are we simply consumers of a product that the Church is offering, or are we sheep of the shepherd and servants of the King? And furthermore, are we pilgrims on a journey to our Father’s house? Every loss and grief should help us realize that we are pilgrims and that we are in exile. We are meant to be in God’s kingdom, yet the world is pretty good at distracting us.

In every Advent season we spend much time and money on shopping for Christmas. We are usually distracted and discombobulated during this time, especially with the state of the economy. Yet we must take time out to pause and remember that we are on a journey to the Kingdom of heaven. The church can be that place of refuge from this world for all of us. So during this Advent season, take some time out and come to church during the day, sit and pray in the quiet of the space, before the Blessed Sacrament exposed or in the tabernacle, and feel God’s gentle embrace drawing you closer to Him.

Have a blessed Advent season!
Monday
December 8
Holy Day of Obligation
Masses: 8:30 am
(Daily Mass Ministers to volunteer please) & 7:00 pm
Attention all Juniors & Seniors that want to be Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
Letters were sent out a while ago inviting you to get involved in this ministry. To those of you who called to accept, thank you. This is another invitation for those who are still in the discernment process.
There will be training this Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 pm in church and you will be commissioned at the 10:00 am Mass Sunday, December 14th.
Any questions, call Debbie Bauer at 507-263-4680.

Bloodmobile is here this Tuesday, December 9th from 1:00 -7:00 pm in the lower level.

ST. PIUS V COOKBOOK
A great gift for Christmas!! Please mail your check to the church or put it in the collection basket to pre-pay your cookbook. The cost is $14.00

PARISH CALENDAR
Sunday, December 7
8:00 am Mass for Ray & Mickey Kimmes
10:00 am Mass for St. Pius V Parish Family
Monday, December 8
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:30 am Mass for Nicholas F. Lorentz †
7:00 pm Mass for Gordie & Mary Anne Hennen
Tuesday, December 9
8:30 am Mass for Andrew A. Kemp †
1:00—7:00 pm Bloodmobile in LL
Wednesday, December 10
8:30 am Mass for Mary Daniels †
Faith Formation Classes as scheduled
7:00 pm Training of Jr/Sr Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in church
Thursday, December 11
8:30 am Mass for Florence Siebenaler †
9:00 am Quilts, Crafts & Coffee in LL
Friday, December 12
8:30 am Mass for Emmett Mercier †
Saturday, December 13
5:00 pm Mass for LaVerna Mies †
Sunday, December 14
8:00 am Mass for Lenora Ries †
10:00 am Mass for St. Pius V Parish Family
Grade 7 Teen Mass
Parish Secretary for Bulletin Notices: parishsecretary@frontiernet.net
Notices are due by 10:00 am Tuesday.
Pastor: Father Jay Kythe
Rev. Leonard Siebenaler, retired priest
Business Administrator: Mrs. Mickey Kimmes
Parish Office: 507-263-2578 Fax: 507-263-8005
Hours: Monday—Friday 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Office closed for lunch 11:30 am—12:30 pm
Email: stpiusvcf@frontiernet.net
Elementary Faith Formation:
Mrs. Jean Edstrom: 507-263-4680
Jr/Sr High/Confirmation Faith Formation:
Mrs. Debbie Bauer: 507-263-4680
Faith Formation Admin. Asst:
Linda Rogers: 507-263-4800
Music Director: Ms. Sue Franke
Church Maintenance/Cemetery:
Jim Cylkowski: 507-263-2578
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
4:00 – 4:30pm Saturday
Prayer Network:
Ms. Rosemary Pirrung: 507-263-5321
Nursery: 10:00am Sunday Mass
For Baptism information, please call the parish office.

PARISH INFORMATION
Anyone interested in singing at any of the Christmas Masses, contact Sue at 507-263-2813 or Franke.Sue@gmail.com
Christmas articles are now available at the gift shop. Come back and take a look. The Christmas boxes are on the left of the gray cabinet.
The Department of Veterans Affairs Gift Shop is asking for the coupons in the Sunday papers. Please mail your coupons directly to:
Dept of VA – Gift Shop
One Veterans Drive
Minneapolis, MN  55417
Keep saving medicine bottles!! But, please keep them at home until we collect them during Lent. We will then send them to Haiti.

ST. PIUS V NEWS PG.2
Monday
December 8
Holy Day of Obligation
Masses: 8:30 am
(Daily Mass Ministers to volunteer please) & 7:00 pm
Attention all Juniors & Seniors that want to be Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
Letters were sent out a while ago inviting you to get involved in this ministry. To those of you who called to accept, thank you. This is another invitation for those who are still in the discernment process.
There will be training this Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 pm in church and you will be commissioned at the 10:00 am Mass Sunday, December 14th.
Any questions, call Debbie Bauer at 507-263-4680.

Bloodmobile is here this Tuesday, December 9th from 1:00 -7:00 pm in the lower level.

ST. PIUS V COOKBOOK
A great gift for Christmas!! Please mail your check to the church or put it in the collection basket to pre-pay your cookbook. The cost is $14.00

SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP
November 30, 2008
Adult .................................................. $5,129.00
Plate .................................................. $252.00
Youth .................................................. $26.96
Fuel ................................................... $20.00
God’s Poor ....................................... $250.00
Good Sam’s Fund ......................... $600.00
CCHD ............................................... $245.00
Building & Maintenance ........... $1,080.35
Thank you for your generosity!!
As per our fiscal budget, the amount needed from our adult weekly stewardship is $6,100.

How is the beginning of the liturgical year similar to the start of a pilgrimage?
Every Advent begins a new liturgical year challenging us anew to renew and deepen our journey to God through the various yearly feasts and seasons. One of the richest images of church resulting from the deliberations of the Second Vatican Council is that of the church as “the pilgrim people of God.” At our baptism we become members of a pilgrimage community on its faith journey to full covenant relationship with God.
Each liturgical year becomes a living reminder of our lifelong pilgrimage to God. Throughout the year we celebrate feast days of those who have completed their journey to God, and who model for us how we are to conduct ourselves as pilgrim people. We also celebrate seasons that aid us in developing perspectives and attitudes that keep us focused on God. Everything that happens during the liturgical year is intended to help us get in touch with the holy in our lives, ultimately preparing us for final union with God.
Our Muslim brothers and sisters are also renewing and deepening their relationship with God through their annual pilgrimage experience known as the Hajj, which this year falls on December 69. By visiting the Kaba in Mecca, they too take a journey to get in touch with the holy in their lives. Various rituals performed during the Hajj deepen their relationship to God and to their fellow human beings.
Pray that their pilgrim journey and ours may ultimately lead us all to God.
©2008 Liturgical Publications Inc. New Berlin, WI 53151
Welcome!

St. Joseph’s Parish Welcomes:
- Gerald & Julie Bloomquist & daughter Jeanne
- 30799 Cty. 61 Blvd., Red Wing
- Daniel McGrath & Anne Conklin & daughters Claire & Chloe
- 565 9th St., Red Wing
- Tom & Pat Hodnesfield
- 3628 Kosec Drive, Red Wing

Thank you Linda Kimmes for your gift of labor in painting the walls in the vestibule of the church.

Thank you Tom Osbourn for your gift of labor in painting the downstairs bathrooms.

Choir Practice Schedule for Christmas Masses
December 7th at 6:30 pm in the choir loft – All adult/youth vocalists and anyone interested in playing instruments for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Masses.

2nd Annual TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE
King’s Place ~ Miesville
Tuesday, December 9th
11:00 am—9:00 pm

Bring in a new unwrapped toy and receive a FREE…
Hamburger or Cheeseburger, chips, small gold light tap or small pop and Christmas treat.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe box continues, with a deadline of Sunday, December 7th. Please have them at your church by then, so they can be delivered to the warehouse Monday, Dec. 8th.

KIDS, Santa will be at the Miesville Fire Hall Sunday, December 14th from 11:00 am—1:00pm.

The Word of God in the Life & Mission of the Church

Faith Formation Calendar

DECEMBER
10—FF Classes, 6:45—8:00 pm
6:00 pm Grades 6-10 Confessions
17—Christmas Program Families - please join us!
24—NO Class - Christmas Break
31—NO Class - Christmas Break

Wednesday Night Dinner this week is Ham, potatoes, salad & dessert. Proceeds go to World Youth Day 2011.

December 10th, 2008 - Confessions will begin at 6:00 p.m. for middle/high school students. Regular Faith Formation classes 6:45 - 8:00.

December 17th, 2008 - Christmas Program - VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED - please contact Rachel.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS
2nd Sunday of Advent
Theme: Preparing a pathway in our lives
Question for Adults:
When you hear Isaiah comfort the people by promising that God is like a shepherd who gathers the lambs into his arms, what is your response?

Question for Children:
How do you experience God taking care of you, even in times of trouble?

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Monday, December 8 Holy Day of Obligation

Masses: 8:30 am & 5:00 pm

COLLECTION
November 30 .......................... $2,8878.88
Weekly Collection budget........... $2,352.00
Thanksgiving Collection ............ $108.25
Cemetery Upkeep ................... $20.00
Building Fund ....................... $820.00
Thank you very much!

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 7
10:00 am Mass for Leo Leifeld †
6:30 pm Donut Sunday
Monday, December 8
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:30 am Mass for the People of the Parish
5:30 pm Mass for Nick & Marcella Bauer †
Tuesday, December 9
8:30 am Mass for Fr. Leo Fox †
Wednesday, December 10
5:30 pm Mass for Sylvester & Alvina Bauer †
5:30 pm Wednesday Supper
6:00 pm Confessions for Jr. & Sr. High
6:45—8:00 pm FF Classes

Thursday, December 11
Friday, December 12
8:30 am Mass for Loretta Wilborn †
Saturday, December 13
4:30-4:45 pm Reconciliation
5:00 pm Mass for Gerald & Grace Rohr †
Sunday, December 14
10:00 am Mass for Bill Lidgerding †

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, December 8 5:30 pm
Lector Ed Niebur
Eucharistic Ministers Mary Benson, Julie Niebur & Marian Weber
Ushers Dan Benson Family
Servers Esther Susag & Lynzi Daly

Tuesday, December 9
5:30 pm Mass for Nick & Marcella Bauer †
8:30 am Mass for the People of the Parish

Wednesday, December 10
8:30 am Mass for Fr. Leo Fox †
5:30 pm Mass for Gerald & Grace Rohr †
6:00 pm Confessions for Jr. & Sr. High
6:45—8:00 pm FF Classes

Saturday, December 13 5:00 pm
Lector Brian Molitor
Eucharistic Ministers Diane Illa, Mike & Shirley Alm
Ushers Zach Daley & Jeff Mace
Servers Sarah Stoffel & Helen Streff

Sunday, December 14 10:00 am
Lector Roger Bauer
Eucharistic Ministers Brenda Leifeld, Gene Stoffel & Kevin Weber
Ushers Kocur Family
Servers Peter Haggerty & Travis Vieths

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office: 651-437-3526
Hours: Monday—Friday 9:00—12:30
Fax: 651-437-3506
Bulletin Notice: stjosephm@embarqmail.com
Deadline: Tuesday, 10:00 am
Pastor: Fr. Jay Kythe ext. 11
Administrative Assistant: Patti Brown ext. 10
Faith Formation Director: Rachel Cataract ext. 12
Music Director: Heidi Mace
Buildings Maintenance: Nick Ries
Custodian: Leonard Weiss
Grounds Maintenance: Steve Susag
Cemeterian: Rebecca Susag

For Baptism information, please call the parish office.
ST. MARY'S NEWS PG.4

We welcome:
Brent Joseph Carpenter
son of John &
Debra (Reinardy) Carpenter

Calendars featuring St. Mary’s Church are available for $15.00 each. They would make great Christmas gifts for grandma and grandpa’s, moms, dads, aunts, uncles and college kids! To purchase a copy please contact Kathy Feidt at 263-5173, Bev Peine at 263-3358 or Jo Ann Peine at 612-702-6605.

I would like to thank Father Corey Belden for his special blessing before my surgery and thanks for the prayers, phone calls, cards, visits and food. It was greatly appreciated.

Leon Gergen

Thanks to Glen & Laurie Otte for donating and moving the beautiful evergreen near the church.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (a Holy Day of Obligation) will be celebrated at St. Mary’s this Monday, December 8, at 7:30 am with Eucharistic Adoration following.

The children at St. Mary's are looking forward to a really good snow fall. Think of all the sliding that could be enjoyed! While on the subject of snow, please make sure that your child comes to school well-dressed for the outdoors. They need to wear boots, hats, mittens and jackets, and each one of these should be marked with their name and first initial. At the end of the year we seem to gather an awful lot of clothing that no one claims.

I would like to thank Father Corey Belden for his special blessing before my surgery and thanks for the prayers, phone calls, cards, visits and food. It was greatly appreciated.

Leon Gergen

Thanks to Glen & Laurie Otte for donating and moving the beautiful evergreen near the church.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (a Holy Day of Obligation) will be celebrated at St. Mary’s this Monday, December 8, at 7:30 am with Eucharistic Adoration following.

We have been rehearsing for the Christmas program “Simple Gifts of Christmas” which will be presented Thursday, December 18th at 1:00 & 6:30 in the Church Hall. Each and every day they are sounding greater than the day before.

Remember that Friday, the 12th, is an early release day. The children will not be having lunch at school.

Joseph’s Coat extends sincere thanks to those who continue to support them with donations of good clothing, household items, hygiene products, school supplies, paper bags and cash donations. The economy has increased the need. Currently, each shopping day (Monday & Wednesday), they are serving 500 adults and 85 children. Especially needed are items for men, hygiene products and paper bags. Each shopper must have an ID and may only receive one grocery bag per week. Please continue with your donations. God Bless.

Please do not leave donations if the bin is full and the cover won’t close. Donations are ruined by rain and snow!
Donut Sunday is this weekend following Sunday Mass. All are welcome to attend.

During the month of December, the only weekday Mass celebrated at St. Mathias will be Tuesdays at 8:30 am. All Saturday, Sunday and Christmas Masses will be celebrated as scheduled. We hope this is a temporary situation as we wait to hear what pastoral support we receive from the Archdiocese.

The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary will be celebrated at St. Mathias on Monday, December 8, at 7:00 pm. Eucharistic Adoration has been moved to the chapel located in the parish center. At the present time, there will not be a Mass preceding the Adoration. The day and time of Eucharistic Adoration has not changed.

New server training has been scheduled for Saturday, December 13, at 10:00 in the church. Please contact the church office to sign up for training.

A special Communal Penance Service with private confessions will not be scheduled during Advent this year. Private confessions will still be heard Saturdays at 4:00 pm.

Contribution envelopes for 2009 will be available the weekend of December 22 & 23. If you haven’t received contribution envelopes in the past and wish to use them this next year, please contact the parish office and let us know before December 15.

See Community Page of this bulletin (page 6) for more important St. Mathias Parish News!!!!

St. Mathias School
437-5282
Dawn Conway, Principal
PreK– Grade 5

Recently, St. Mathias went through re-accreditation. We are anxious awaiting our re-accreditation approval, but would like to share just some of the wonderful comments that came from a team of four teachers and one principal.

**St. Mathias School is a school that lives its Mission Statement and Philosophy. It is a warm, caring, nurturing environment.**

**Supportive parent & community involvement**

**Excellence in instruction with high academic standards**

**A sense of family and belonging is very evident in the student body.**

Winter Blast will be held January 18th at the Black Stallion in Hampton. Each parish member family will have a Winter Blast envelope located at the back of the church. Please pick up your envelope as soon as possible. Please return the bottom portion of the ticket/money to Connie no later than Jan. 9th. We are looking for donation items for our silent auction as well. Please drop these items off with Connie. If you have any questions, please call Julie Mogensen at 651-460-4690 or Connie Thurmes at 651-437-5282. The Winter Blast will benefit the Faith Formation Students.

Church cleaning is scheduled for Monday, December 15. Those scheduled to clean are: Diane Rother, Linda Smith, Jenny Baker, Mary Lou Bauer, Brenda Fitterer. Thank you ladies!

St. Mathias Holiday Luncheon
Saturday, December 13
11:00 - 1:30 pm
German food, bake sale, door prizes

PARISH INFORMATION
Parish Office: 651-437-9030
Hours: Monday 8:00—4:30
Tuesday & Thursday 3:00—5:00
School Office: 651-437-5282
Fax: 651-437-3427
Church Basement: 651-480-0088
Website – www.stmathias.com
Bulletin Notices: parishoffice@stmathias.com
Deadline: Tuesday, 10 am
Parish Administrator: Joan Ryan
jryan@stmathias.com
School Principal: Dawn Conway
dawn Conway@msn.com
School Secretary: Connie Thurmes
Connie@stmathias.com
Family Faith Form. Coord.: Tim Kiminski
651-480-1795 or timk@stmathias.com
Faith Formation Inquiries: faithformation@stmathias.com
Cemeterian: Rosie Giefer 651-437-9025

COLLECTION
November 30............................ $1,906.36
Capital Campaign.......................... $400.00
Thank you very much!!
The next CYF gathering will be in Cannon Falls Sunday, December 14th. We’ll start out at St. Pius V (lower level) at 6:30 pm for pizza & beverages, which will be provided. We then go to Angel Care Nursing Home to visit & play Bingo with the residents from 6:30 to 7:30. Return to St. Pius V by 7:45 & be wrapped up by 8:15 pm. All 9th - 12th graders welcome as well as parents or adult chaperones. Parental permission form required, unless accompanied by parent(s). The form can be mailed or e-mailed. Please notify Tim Kiminski at 651-214-3928 or timk@stmathias.com to obtain one. Contact Tim if you need help getting to St. Pius V. Also, contact Tim with questions or if the weather is questionable.

Nancy at Belle Creek Roller Rink commented on what a well behaved & polite group of young people we have. Myself & others agree!! To those who were there, thanks for being well behaved & polite. And a heartfelt ‘thanks’ to all the adults chaperones there.

Mission Trip, June 20-27th, ‘09
Any 8th-12th graders interested in joining St. Dominic’s youth to serve in South Dakota & visit The Black Hills? Consider attending a meeting at St. Dominics in Northfield after the 6:00 pm Holy Day Mass this Monday, December 8th in O’Gara social hall. Pizza provided. If you can’t get to the meeting, but are still interested, contact Tim.

With the holidays upon us and the economic struggles we are facing, choosing between alone time and paying for a babysitter becomes a very real issue. To help remove the need to make this choice, we will have “Children’s Night Out” on Friday night December 12 from 6:30 to 11:30 pm for age infant to 10. You will be able to bring your child(ren) to the school during this time to enjoy movies, snacks, and lots of fun with other youngsters. We will have access to a refrigerator and microwave to warm bottles if needed.

We will have students from our Faith Formation/Confirmation classes to ensure the children are safe and have a great time, and we will have at least two adults there to supervise. This is open to anyone in our community. You do not have to be a member of St. Mathias parish to participate. Please spread the word. Plan an evening out or time to do some Christmas shopping and know your children are enjoying a night out, too. Any questions, please contact Yvonne Arendt at 651 438 2352.

If you wish to send Fr. Belden a card, just drop it in collection or at the Parish Office and I will forward on to him. Thanks—Joan

Please mark your calendars. The Christmas Eve children’s program will begin at 4:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 5:00 p.m. Christmas Day Mass will be held at 10:30 am.
PLEASE PRAY FOR

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
December 8, 2008

Monday
Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday
Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday
Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday
Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Friday
Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47
Saturday
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Please join us for An Advent Retreat Evening with Jeff Cavins December 10th, 2008 at 7:00 pm
Are you living a partial life?
We often face two worlds: our ideal world and the real world. Our ideal world is made up of those things that we enjoy, are gifted at and there is great reward. The problem is that many days we don't get to live in that ideal world because we wake up and face the real world, which is filled with unpredictable obstacles and many tasks that are not in what we consider our ideal world.

Jeff Cavins will talk about how we can transform those things that we don't like into His likeness. The one person who modeled this way of living is the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish 2035 15th St. W. Hastings, MN
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
Anyone interested in ordering plants for the Christmas Season in memory of a loved one, may do so by calling Virginia Majeski at 437-6220. Orders need to be placed by Monday, December 22nd and will be delivered at no charge to the church.

If you wish to bring a plant, it should be brought to the church by Sunday, December 21st. Please attach a card stating who the flowers are in memory of and who they are from.
If you have any questions call: June Erickson 651-437-9898 or Kathy Feidt 507-263-5173.