



St. Matthew Peace & Justice Ministry

St. Matthew Catholic Church

*Connected in Christ!
Moved by the Spirit!*

2013

Dear Friends,

As St. Matthew enters its 27th year as a parish, we continue to be an increasingly engaged community of Catholics. A significant part of our engagement is expressed in the spiritual, cultural and financial decisions we make.

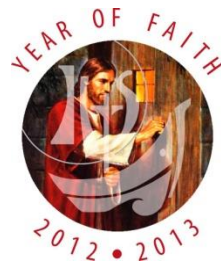
The St. Matthew Peace and Justice Ministry produces this guide to help us reflect on how we spend our time, talent and treasure. Hopefully, these reflections will encourage each of us to consider that how and where we spend these valuable resources has local and global effects for us, as well as for our sisters and brothers.

I invite you to take a few moments and look over the good works that you will find in this guide. I pray that these suggestions will help you cultivate a spirit of socially conscious spending throughout the year.

May God continue to bless you always and in all ways,

Reverend Monsignor John J. McSweeney

Pastor of St. Matthew Catholic Church



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8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway • Charlotte, NC 28277
704-543-7677 • www.stmatthewcatholic.org

MINISTRIES AT ST. MATTHEW

For more information on these ministries, visit
<http://stmatthewcatholic.org/ministries/stewardship-service>.

A Child's Place (ACP) works to erase the impact of homelessness on children and their education. ACP began in 1989 when a group of women were walking through a cemetery in downtown Charlotte and noticed a group of kids playing. When asked why the kids were not in school, the children explained that they were not allowed to enroll in school without a permanent address. The women began offering school for this group of 27 children in a one-room schoolhouse provided by First Presbyterian Church with a teacher from CMS. In 1989, the McKinney-Vento Act was passed protecting the educational rights of homeless children and ensuring that they would be provided the necessities to regularly attend school. ACP works to remove the barriers facing its client children so that they may complete their education and to make school the most stable part of their lives. ACP provides educational and emotional support services as well as medical referrals to keep its client children healthy and in the classroom. With homelessness involving children rapidly increasing, there is a growing need for monetary donations as well as for **volunteers**. To make monetary **donations** and for more information, visit <http://achildsplace.org>.

St. Matthew Contacts:	Valerie Zerbe	704-910-0737
	Marcie DeMore	704-231-1196

The Angel Tree at St. Matthew benefits many organizations throughout our community during the Christmas season. The **donated gifts** go to children at Hawk Ridge Elementary, Smithfield Elementary, Sterling Elementary, and Eastway Middle schools. Gifts also are given to residents at Holy Angels in Belmont. Wal-Mart **gift cards** enable senior citizens to acquire medicine and other supplies. Other recipient organizations include the Mental Health Adolescent Division, The Mentor Network, Missionaries of the Poor in Monroe, and Thompson Children's Center.

St. Matthew Contact:	Martha Bookout	704-542-6761
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CROP Walk is a national event held each fall to raise money to fight world hunger. Walkers raise money through pledges and walk 6K (approximately 4 miles) to show their support for those in need. Step out against hunger or volunteer to help organize the St. Matthew team for October 13, 2013. For more information, visit <http://www.charlottecropwalk.org/>.

St. Matthew Contacts:	Dana Nolen	704-844-8007
	Hannah Nolen	

Donated Goods Ministry delivers donations to thrift stores in Charlotte and western North Carolina that sell these items to support their respective ministry. Donated goods are collected on the second Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon in the St. Matthew Donated Goods storage area located under the Daily Mass Chapel. **Volunteers** help receive goods, pick up donations in the area, and pack and load the trucks.

St. Matthew Contacts:	Ann & Randy Mazur	704-544-4667
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Family Assist Ministry requests Wal-Mart and Target **gift cards** to share with parish families. Gift cards help cover a variety of needs including prescriptions, medical needs and/or clothing, as well as allowing those in the parish community who are ill, families with children or who have special dietary needs, the opportunity to purchase household products and perishable health-conscious foods.

St. Matthew Contact: Rachael Schuler 704-543-7677 x1013
Social Worker Sharon Davis 704-543-7677 x1018,
swdavis@charlottediocese.org

The Food Pantry maintained at St. Matthew provides food to needy families in the greater Charlotte area and food baskets to Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Non-perishable items are collected on the first Sunday of each month. **Volunteers** sort the items on the Monday after the collection. **Gift cards** from area grocery stores also are used to supplement the food baskets. The Food Pantry is located in the storage area beneath the Daily Mass Chapel.

St. Matthew Contact: Brenda Lehtinen 704-541-1551

Friendship Trays is a community program delivering, in a caring and friendly manner, balanced meals to individuals in the community who are unable, because of age or infirmity, to obtain and prepare their own meals. **Volunteers** are needed to pick up meals for delivery Monday-Friday between 11 and 11:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.friendshiptrays.org.

St. Matthew Contacts: Bill Klemm 704-443-7748
Patti Olejniczak 704-443-5150

Habitat for Humanity volunteers help build low-cost housing for families in need and provide meals for workers each weekend during the construction phase. St. Matthew has built seven Habitat houses. The **Charlotte ReStore** has three money-generating programs at their 1133 North Wendover Road location: Julia's Cafe & Used Bookstore, Metal Recycling, and Deconstruction items. A ReStore also is located in Matthews. For more information, visit <http://www.charlotterestore.org/> or for the Matthews ReStore, visit <http://www.habitatmatthews.org/restore/>.

St. Matthew Contact: Jeff Wilson 704-608-6829

Homeless Shelters

☀ **Volunteers** prepare and serve dinner on the second Saturday evening of odd-numbered months and lunch on all fifth Saturdays at the **Men's Shelter of Charlotte North Tryon Campus** and serve dinner on the second Tuesday of every month at the **Statesville Avenue Shelter**. **Volunteers** also are needed to work at the North Tryon Shelter on Saturday mornings. A St. Matthew quarterly (November, February, May, and August) **collection** of men's underwear is delivered to the Men's Shelter of Charlotte for distribution to their residents and clients. For ways to help, visit <http://www.mensshelterofcharlotte.org/>.

St. Matthew Contacts: Tom Ellis 704-907-8372 (North Tryon)
Mark Brodowicz 704-443-7609 (Statesville Avenue)

☀ The **Center of Hope**, housed at the Salvation Army, is a 24/7 facility for women and children who are homeless. The St. Matthew Women's Guild organizes a **collection** of bed and bath linens and toiletries for the Center of Hope. For more information, visit <http://www.salvationarmycarolinas.org/commands/charlotte/programs/coh>.

St. Matthew Contact: Ginny Spisak 704-289-4330

Lunch To Go volunteers prepare and deliver sandwiches and cookies twice a week to the Union County Community Shelter for residents to take with them to work. The shelter provides temporary housing, food, and basic services to men, women, and families who are homeless. For more information, visit <http://www.unionshelter.org/> .

St. Matthew Contacts: **Bill & Elisa Webb** **704-905-0240**
 Maria Lander **704-849-8211**

The Missionaries of the Poor (MOP) is an international monastic order of Brothers dedicated to joyful service with Christ on the Cross to serve the poorest of the poor. The order was started in 1981 by Father Richard Ho Lung and has now grown to more than 550 brothers. MOP has free missions around the globe with the main home in Kingston, Jamaica, where they maintain six apostolates, two monasteries and a retreat house. The Brothers also serve the Lord with their acts of mercy in India, the Philippines, Haiti, Uganda, Kenya and the United States. The Brothers welcome visitors to come and **join them in their work**. And, they welcome **contributions and food donations**. Since 2003, St. Matthew has collected food and shipped it to Haiti where MOP Brothers distribute it to residents of their mission homes as well as to people in the community. In 2008, the Brothers opened Guardian Angels Monastery in Monroe, NC, their first mission house in the United States. **St. Matthew Family Enrichment Ministry** sends teams to serve lunch at the MOP Monastery in Monroe. For more information on the Family Enrichment Ministry, call Chris Delea at 704-814-4704. For more information on MOP, visit <http://www.missionariesofthepoor.org/usa-monroe-nc.php>. At the MOP website www.missionariesofthepoor.org, you will find a list of items always needed as well as music CDs and books for purchase.

St. Matthew Contact: **Sandy Farrelly** **704-846-2913**

The Muffin Ministry provides muffins for homeless shelters on a weekly basis. **Volunteers** agree to bake two dozen muffins on a scheduled basis, usually two to three times a year.

St. Matthew Contact: **Jan Grouge** **704-845-8494**

REACH Service Connection Ministry encourages youth and families to participate in service together by making it easier, more organized and fun.

St. Matthew Contacts: **Paul Burley** pburley1@carolina.rr.com
 Heather King hking@stmatthewcatholic.org

The Refugee Resettlement Ministry adopts refugee families during their first six months in the United States. Services include welcoming the family at the airport, donating home furnishings and money, furniture pick-up and delivery as well as providing food and friendship. For more information and to find additional volunteer opportunities, visit <http://ccdoc.org/volunteer/volunteer-in-charlotte>.

St. Matthew Contact: **Bill LaMay** **704-995-0002**

Sandwich Programs volunteers agree to make 40 sandwiches on a rotating schedule, every other month, which are delivered weekly to Charlotte women's and men's homeless shelters.

St. Matthew Contacts: **Lisa Gentile** **704-256-9915**
 Robin Bennett **704-243-4319**

World Food Drive volunteers assist in collecting, sorting and sending food to the poorest people around the world and in our own country, every year during the month of July. For more information, visit www.stmatthewfooddrive.com.

St. Matthew Contact:

Steve Favory

704-544-2164

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS BEYOND OUR PARISH

Burial Assistance Program is a ministry of Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte (CCDOC) which began in 1994 when Mecklenburg County discontinued funding assistance for indigent burials. The program assists families with limited resources in the burial of a family member who lived in Mecklenburg County. CCDOC provides the social service support and eligibility verification for the program to serve families that have no insurance, are unable to negotiate financial arrangements with a funeral home, and do not have sufficient funds to cover the program's cost of the burial. For more information, call 704-370-3232. To make a contribution, visit <http://www.ccdoc.org/>, then click on the "Donate" tab; or mail a check designated for **Burial Assistance** to: Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte, Burial Assistance Program, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

The Center for Community Transitions has provided transition services to men and women leaving prison, since 1974. For more information, visit <http://www.centerforcommunitytransitions.org/aboutus/history.html>.

Cherubs Café & Candy Bouquet provides vocational training and meaningful supported employment options for individuals with mental challenges. For more information about the programs of Holy Angels in Belmont, visit <http://www.holyangelsnc.org/cherubs/>.

Christ Our Shepherd Child Development Campus (501c3 nonprofit) provides a safe and nurturing environment for the children of two parent and single parent households. All activities focus on sharing the love, compassion and word of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. A limited number of child care scholarships are available to single parent households. For more information, visit www.coskids.org. The Matthews Christian Library on the campus is open to the public for an annual fee. For more information, visit <http://www.matthewschristianlibrary.org/home.html>.

Citizen Schools partners with public middle schools in low-income communities to provide an expanded learning day, rich with opportunities. For more information, visit <http://www.citizenschools.org/>.

Crisis Assistance Ministry (CAM) serves the low-income citizens of Mecklenburg County, often classified as "the working poor", who are facing financial emergencies and are struggling to meet life's basic needs. **Volunteers** also are needed to interview, file, sort clothing, and/or work in the clothing store. For more information, visit www.crisisassistance.org.

Homemakers of Mercy (HÖM) (St. Gabriel and St. Matthew volunteers) is a partner in **Supportive Housing Innovative Partnership (SHIP)** a collaborative effort between the Charlotte Housing Authority, The Salvation Army and HÖM to furnish apartments for women and children as they make progress towards independent living. For more information, visit <http://stmatthewcatholic.org/ministries/stewardship-service>, and scroll down to click on "HÖM – Homemakers of Mercy".

Matthews Help Center provides care for families and individuals in meeting life's basic needs. They accept monetary donations as well as clothing and/or household item donations for their *Backporch Treasures* thrift shop. For more information, visit www.matthewshelpcenter.org.

Together in Education, Harris Teeter's TIE is a fund raising program for schools (public or private—preschool through 12th grade) in our communities. When customers purchase select Harris Teeter brand products using their VIC card, Harris Teeter contributes a percentage of those purchase dollars to the schools of their choice. You can support your own children's school as well as link to a predominantly low-income school (e.g. Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School - 2477 or Thomasboro Elementary – 4362). To sign up and link your VIC card, visit http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/tie_details.aspx

Urban Ministry Center (UMC) is where 500-600 of our neighbors who are homeless visit each day. They come to relieve their hunger in the soup kitchen, enjoy art or other community programs, get treatment, and connect with the housing programs to eventually take steps out of homelessness. For volunteer opportunities, visit <http://www.urbanministrycenter.org/volunteer>. For a list of the items most needed on the UMC Wish List, visit <http://www.urbanministrycenter.org/support-us/wish-list>. The Urban Ministry Center's annual holiday honor card is a wonderful way to honor the birth of Jesus by directly helping the least of our brothers and sisters. The holiday card features artwork by an artist in UMC's art program. When you send in your donation you can request to have the cards sent to you for mailing or for the cards to be mailed by UMC in your name. For more information, after Oct. 1, visit <http://www.urbanministrycenter.org/about-us> and type "Honor Card" in the search window.

Voter Registration Register so you can exercise your right to vote in local, state and national elections. Absentee ballots may be requested by mail, should be postmarked no later than Election Day, and must be received no later than three days after the election. In NC, for more information and a voter registration form, visit <http://www.ncsbe.gov/>. In SC, visit <http://www.scvotes.org/>.

The Word Among Us Partners provides spiritual materials to Catholics in need. Through donations to the ministry, the daily Scripture reading and meditation magazine is sent to prisoners, service men and women, and women experiencing crisis pregnancy or who have had an abortion. To make a donation, visit <http://waupartners.org/about/>.

ORGANIZATIONS/COMPANIES FOR SPECIFIC ISSUES

Concern Worldwide, founded in 1968, is dedicated to eradicating poverty worldwide. For more information, visit <http://www.concernusa.org/who-we-are/about-us>.

Heifer International provides livestock, trees, training and other resources to help struggling families build sustainable futures. Gifts range from \$10 for a share of a goat to \$500 for a heifer. For more information and/or to place an order, visit www.heifer.org.

Kiva is a person-to-person micro-lending website, empowering individuals to lend directly to unique entrepreneurs around the globe. To learn more about loans that change lives, visit www.kiva.org.

Neet's Sweets Inc. is a dessert catering service founded in Charlotte by Antonia "Neet" Childs in 2008. It also is a movement to save other young women from a life of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, that she experienced herself. To read Neet's story, visit <http://www.neetssweets.com/about-the-founder.html>.

Project2Heal depends on the public for help achieving its mission of helping to heal the world one puppy at a time. To learn how you can get involved, visit <http://www.project2heal.org/>.

Project Link is a pen-pal program of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty that forges relationships of mutual support and respect between those living on death row and those living outside of prison. For more information, visit <http://www.pfadp.org/>, and under the “Take Action” tab, click on “Project Link”.

Safe Alliance Domestic Violence Shelter serves women and children who are victims of intimate partner violence. The services include shelter, food, crisis intervention and counseling, all with the goal of empowering women to break the cycle of intimate partner violence and build safer, healthier lives.

Volunteers and/or **monetary contributions** are always welcome to support the Safe Alliance mission of providing hope and solutions to people in crisis. For more information, visit www.safealliance.org.

We Advance, co-founded by activist and actor Maria Bello, is a grassroots movement to advance the health, safety and well-being of women in Haiti. For more information, visit <http://weadvance.org/>.

FAIR TRADE: COMMITTED TO BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

At its heart, the Fair Trade Movement is about building respectful, enduring relationships. The commitment criteria below were drawn from the Fair Trade Federation, a trade association for fair trade businesses in the United States and Canada:

- Paying a **fair wage** in the local context
- Offering employees **opportunities for advancement**
- Providing **equal employment opportunities** for all people, particularly the most disadvantaged
- Engaging in **environmentally sustainable practices**
- Being open to **public accountability**
- Building **long-term trade relationships**
- Providing **healthy and safe working conditions** within the local context
- Providing **financial and technical assistance** to producers whenever possible

For more information, visit www.fairtradefederation.org. The following organizations and programs are committed to some or all of the criteria listed above.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Fair Trade urges us to learn that the daily decisions we make as a consumer can make a real, positive difference in the world. When we choose to buy fair trade products, we are making a strong connection with hardworking, but impoverished workers around the world. For more information, visit www.crsfairtrade.org.

Handcrafting Justice is a Fair Trade Project of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, working in cooperation with women struggling for economic justice and independence in the developing world. The sisters work with and assist the women in their efforts to create employment for themselves in order to provide for their families. To learn more about their crafts and alternative gifts, visit <http://handcraftingjustice.cedris.org/index.php?lang=en&pt=c&p=aboutUs>

Project Have Hope works to empower women in the Acholi Quarter of Uganda by providing education to both women and their children, and by assisting the women in establishing opportunities to promote economic stability and sustainability. One way to help is to buy Acholi jewelry made from recycled paper. To find out about Project Have Hope and about hosting a bead party, visit www.projecthavehope.org.

Raven + Lily helps employ marginalized women in Africa, India, Cambodia and the United States at fair trade wages to give them access to a safe job, sustainable income, healthcare, education, and a real chance to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their families. Every product from Raven + Lily is handmade, fair trade and eco-friendly. The company was featured in the PBS documentary *Half the Sky* about how women around the world are turning oppression into opportunity. Learn more at www.ravenandlily.com/our-mission/.

Ten Thousand Villages is a fair trade retailer offering gifts, home décor, jewelry, art and sculptures handcrafted by artisans around the world. To find a store near you, visit www.tenthousandvillages.com/store-locator/ or shop online at www.tenthousandvillages.com.

LEARNING FROM THE LABELS

As demand for economic and environmental responsibility grows, more and more labels and logos are appearing on products to help consumers make informed decisions. As of August 2013 these are the definitions for Fair Trade taken from the respective websites. The use of certification labels and organizational logos is evolving in today's marketplace. For the latest developments, visit <http://www.ftrn.org/> or the organization websites.



Name: CRS Fair Trade Program

Issuing Organization: Catholic Relief Services

This logo is used on all CRS Fair Trade program materials, brochures, web pages, and e-newsletter, as well as many products offered by members of the CRS Fair Trade network of fully committed fair trade organizations. You may also see this logo on sweatshop-free shirts or other gear worn by a select group of ambassadors, who are spreading the message of fair trade in their communities. This logo does not represent a third party inspection and verification system but is a marketing tool to help build awareness and identify relationships. For more information, visit <http://crsfairtrade.org>



Name: Fair Trade Federation

Issuing Organization: Fair Trade Federation

The Fair Trade Federation logo is used by members of the Fair Trade Federation (FTF), an association of organizations fully committed to fair trade principles. It does not represent a third-party inspection and verification system; therefore, it is not a certification. Instead it indicates that a company has met the membership criteria of FTF. When you buy from companies authorized to use the FTF label, you can be assured that the company is fully committed to fair trade. FTF upholds nine fair trade principles. For more information, visit <http://www.fairtradeprinciples.org/>



Name: Fair Trade USA

Certifying Agency: SCS Global Services

Fair Trade USA enables sustainable development and community empowerment by cultivating a more equitable global trade model that benefits farmers, workers, consumers, industry and the earth. They achieve their mission by certifying and promoting fair trade products. The fair trade certification model is designed and audited to ensure equitable trade practices at every level of the supply chain. FTUSA certifies products, not companies. For more information, visit <http://fairtradeusa.org/certification/label-usage>.



Name: Fairtrade International
Certifying Agency: FLO-Cert

The Fairtrade certification model is designed and audited to ensure equitable trade practices at every level of the supply chain. New Fairtrade standards are set and existing standards are reviewed on a regular basis. This process involves wide consultation with stakeholders, producers and traders. For more information, visit <http://www.fairtrade.net/standards.html>.



Name: Fair for Life
Certifying Agency: Institute for Marketecology (IMO)

The Fair for Life Social & Fair Trade Certification Programme offers operators of socially responsible projects a solution for brand-neutral, third-party inspection and certification in initial production, manufacturing and trading. It combines strict social and fair trade standards with adaptability to local conditions. The system is designed for both food and non-food commodities (like cosmetics, textiles or tourist services). For more information, visit http://fairforlife.org.imo-office.org/pmws/indexDOM.php?client_id=fairforlife&page_id=home&lang_iso639=en.



Name: Rainforest Alliance Certified
Certifying Agency: Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN)

SAN strives to improve commodity production in the tropics and develops criteria for responsible farm management. As part of International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling (ISEAL) Alliance, SAN promotes the interests of workers, communities and the environment in world trade. For more information, visit <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/agriculture/standards>.



Name: Certified Organic
Certifying Agency: United States Department of Agriculture
The USDA has established a comprehensive set of standards that must be met by anyone who uses the "organic" label in the United States. USDA standards on food focus on the products used in growing food and the processes by which food is handled. USDA organic standards prohibit the use of antibiotics, genetic engineering and most synthetic pesticides and fertilizers. USDA accredits more than 50 certifying organizations that actually inspect producers to verify compliance with its standards. For more information, visit <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/Standards>



Name: Whole Foods Market
Certifying Partners: Fair Trade USA, IMO, Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade International

The national chain of Whole Foods Markets works with certifiers to identify products that meet criteria in four specific areas: quality, premium price to the producer, better wages and working conditions, and the environment. For more information, visit <http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/products/whole-trade.php>.

For a shopping guide to find fair trade products, visit <http://www.fairtradeusa.org/shopping-guide>.

ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

Catholic Charities USA provides action alerts on national legislative action at <http://capwiz.com/catholiccharitiesusa/mlm/signup/>.

Catholic Relief Services provides international advocacy news and action alerts at http://actioncenter.crs.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ccgp_signup.

Catholic Voice NC, founded in 2008, CVNC brings the Catholic perspective into those areas where faith and public policy intersect. To receive legislative alerts, visit <http://www.catholicvoicenc.org/> and click on the “Join Us” button.

Community Advisory Committees (CACs) are community volunteer advocates appointed by their county commissioners. The Regional Ombudsman program supports and trains CACs, as they regularly visit facilities to become familiar with residents and facility operation. There are Nursing Home and Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committees in every county that has a nursing home or adult care home. The creation of this network, established in 1977 by North Carolina General Assembly, extended the Ombudsman Program to the local level in a more comprehensive way. The committee’s primary function is to maintain the spirit of the Nursing Home and Adult Care Home Patients’ Bill of Rights. For additional information on volunteering, visit <http://www.centralina.org/centralina-area-agency-on-aging-home/volunteers/> and scroll down to “Community Advisory Committees (CACs)”. To contact your Regional Ombudsman visit <http://www.centralina.org/centralina-area-agency-on-aging-home/contact/>.

US Conference of Catholic Bishops provides action alerts from the Justice Peace and Human Development (JPHD) Department on national legislation at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now/capwiz/capwiz-signup.cfm>, or sign up by emailing JPHDmail@usccb.org.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING DOCUMENTS

Catholic Social Teaching Documents - Modern Catholic social teaching is the body of social principles and moral teaching that is articulated in the papal, conciliar, and other official documents issued since the late 19th century and dealing with the economic, political, and social order. This teaching is rooted in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures as well as in traditional philosophical and theological teachings of the Church. To find these documents, visit <http://cctwincities.org/CatholicSocialTeachingMajorDocuments>.

Faithful Citizenship - *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States* provides a framework for Catholics in the United States at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf>.

RECOMMENDED READING

The Challenge and Spirituality of Catholic Social Teaching, Revised Edition, 2011, by Marvin Krier Mich, published by Orbis Books, ISBN 978-1-57075-945-1, www.orbisbooks.com.

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, 2009, by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, published by Vintage Books, ISBN 978-0-307-38709-7, <http://www.halftheskymovement.org/pages/book>.

Seek First the Kingdom: Challenging The Culture By Living Our Faith, 2012, by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, published by Our Sunday Visitor, ISBN 978-1-61278-206-5, www.osv.com. This book is available in the St. Matthew Library.

Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion, 2010, by Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, published by Free Press, a division of Simon and Schuster, ISBN 978-1-4391-5302-4, <http://www.homeboyindustries.org/shop-homeboy/view/tattoos-on-the-heart-english-paperback/>.

Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse it), 2011, by Robert D. Lupton, published by Harper One, an imprint of Harper Collins, ISBN 978-0-06-207620-5, www.harpercollins.com and search for “Toxic Charity”.

SEASONS OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR

ADVENT, a season of hope as well as penance, begins the liturgical year on the fourth Sunday before Christmas.

CHRISTMAS begins with Christmas Day, goes through the Epiphany (the Twelve Days of Christmas) and concludes with the Baptism of the Lord.

LENT is sometimes described as the “Church on retreat”. A season of fasting, prayer and almsgiving, Lent is a time to reflect on how well we are living out our baptism.

THE TRIDUUM or Paschal Triduum (three days) begins with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday and concludes on Easter evening.

EASTER is the season following Easter evening and concluding on Pentecost Sunday.

ORDINARY TIME is the only liturgical season that comes in two sections. The first begins with the Baptism of the Lord and goes until Ash Wednesday. The second follows Pentecost and concludes with the Feast of Christ the King.



GROW IN THE SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is a commitment of mind and heart to the Lord; a way of life that touches all aspects of our lives. All we have has been entrusted to us. Take some time throughout the year to reflect on the ways you can become the good steward God intended you to be.

Stewardship of Prayer: Commit to strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Notice how often you pray and what hinders you from praying. Commit to ten minutes of daily prayer.

Stewardship of Family: Set aside more time to stay connected with your family. Eat dinner together, schedule dates with your spouse, plan family outings and go to Mass together.

Stewardship of Health: Schedule medical and dental checkups. Adopt healthier eating habits. Add exercise to your daily routine.

Stewardship of Possessions: Consider how to possess less. Consider ways to reduce the amount of *stuff* you own. Consider donating to the St. Matthew Donated Goods ministry held the second Saturday of each month (see p. 3).

Stewardship of the Parish Family: Commit to serve your faith community in some new way. For example, make sandwiches for the shelters, greet visitors or teach your faith. Plan to visit the Ministry Fair in September to find new possibilities for service.

Stewardship of Money: Review your annual budget. Reprioritize your goals to ensure the Lord comes first in your spending. Take positive steps to improve your financial health.

Stewardship of Work: Be faithful to your daily work and offer it up to the Lord. Cultivate your skills. Deepen your knowledge. Be mindful of how you are building the Kingdom of God.

Stewardship of Mind: Keep your mind active. Be more informed about the issues of the day. Find a good book and read it. Focus on the true, lovely and admirable.

Stewardship of Neighbor: Be a person of hospitality. Make time and space for others who enter your life. Be more aware of those times when a neighbor, co-worker, fellow parishioner or stranger needs a word of kindness, an attentive ear or an affirming gesture.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

St. Matthew Stewardship Committee
(Adapted from the International Catholic Stewardship Council)



JustFaith

is here at

St. Matthew Church!

JustFaith is a small group program that focuses on discipleship, engagement in the life of Jesus, and compassion for the poor and the most vulnerable in today's world. Meeting weekly, small groups of 10-16 people make use of prayer, books, videos, discussion, retreats and hands-on experiences. The program provides a tapestry of learning opportunities that emphasize and enliven the healing work of God's compassion found in Scripture, Catholic Church history and teaching, and faithful witnesses. *JustFaith* is a lively, challenging, multifaceted process that is nationally recognized and currently used in over 1,500 parishes involving 30,000 people.

For more information, visit <http://www.justfaith.org/about/>, or contact Michael Burck at mburck@stmatthewcatholic.org or 704-541-8362 x4. Sessions begin in September.

St. Matthew Peace and Justice Ministry



St. Matthew Peace & Justice Ministry

Mission Statement: The Peace and Justice Ministry of St. Matthew Catholic Church strives to shine a light on injustices as well as to educate and to engage our parishioners and our community on ways to achieve justice for every human person.

The **Peace and Justice Ministry** meets periodically throughout the year.

As part of our mission, we:

- Distribute the **Socially Conscious Spending Guide**, available in print and online at <http://stmatthewcatholic.org/about/virtuallibrary>, and scroll down to click on "Socially Conscious Spending Guide"
- Host an **International Fair Trade Market** at St. Matthew on Sunday, March 30, 2014.
- Publicize additional workshops and events in the parish bulletin, on the St. Matthew website at www.stmatthewcatholic.org, and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/StMatthewPandJMinistry>.
- Promote *JustFaith* sessions.

For more information on the Peace and Justice Ministry, contact [mid-August through mid-October 2013] Fred Burrell at fredburrell7@hotmail.com or 704-256-3675 or [after mid-October] coordinator Terri Jarina at tjarina@windstream.net or 704-243-1217.