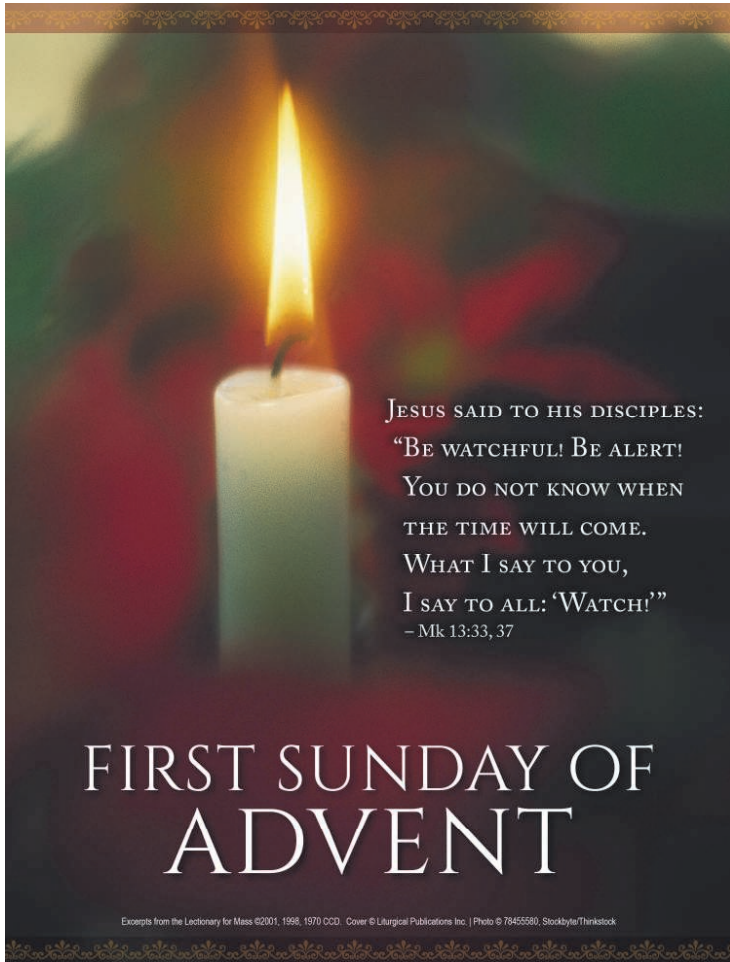


# Church of St. Matthew

*A Catholic community that is a visible expression of God's love*



JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES:  
"BE WATCHFUL! BE ALERT!  
YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN  
THE TIME WILL COME.  
WHAT I SAY TO YOU,  
I SAY TO ALL: 'WATCH!'"  
- Mk 13:33, 37

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. Cover © Liturgical Publications Inc. | Photo © 7845580, Stockbyte/Thinkstock

### **December 3, 2017** **First Sunday of Advent**

#### **Liturgy Schedule**

**Monday, Wednesday & Friday** 8:00 a.m.

**Saturday** - 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday** - 10:00 a.m.

#### **Reconciliation**

**Saturday** 3:00 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

and by appointment

#### **Prayer Line**

**Hope 651.457.0228    Cathy 651.455.5473**

#### **Parish Staff**

**All emails are**

**@st-matts.org**

Rev. Robert Kelly, OP, Parochial Administrator  
frbobkellyop

Deacon John Murphy

Deacon Gregg Sroder

Sister Anne Becker, Pastoral Ministry  
srannebecker

Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry

jillkilzer

Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer  
skowal

John Riehle, Administrator

jriehle

Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary

lrivera

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**Parish Center** - 490 Hall Avenue

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**651-224-9793**

**Fax 651.222.2688**

**Website: st-matts.org**

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew](http://www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew)

#### **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

#### **Sacraments**

Please contact the Parish Office regarding Baptism, Marriage, First Communion and Confirmation information.

#### **Bulletin**

Announcements are due on Monday by 10:00 a.m. for the next Sunday's bulletin. *Items received after 10:00 a.m. will appear in the following week's bulletin.*

#### **Readings for the Week of December 3, 2017**

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [1a]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

## ADVENT—A TIME FOR WAITING



We often make denigrating remarks about time—about being early, about being late, and about being right on time. This is because no matter who we are, none of us has complete control of our time. So we deal with it the best way we can.

Bluegrass songwriter, John Cadley, sings about the difficulty we have with time in his song called "Time." *"When I was young, I dreamed of being older. Now that I am older, I dream of being young. There are times when I complain about having no time. Then I wonder where that time has gone. Things I plan, I never do. Things that I never planned, I do. Once there was a time, when there was no time at all. And I wonder where that time has gone."*

Since the beginning of time, we human times have struggled with time. We want to remember who we were in the past and we want to know who we will be in the future. As Christians, we want to know about our salvation that was given to us in the past, promised to us in the future, and what we are preparing for in the present.

I think that almost all religions, in some way or another, try to give their followers a plan for salvation. In the first reading for the First Sunday of Advent, the prophet Isaiah reminds the Israelites and us where the plan comes from. The plan comes from God who is the father with the hands of a potter who forms us, who fashions us, who directs us along the path of time.

But just as John Cadley sings, we are left with uncertainty as to the time of things that are taking place. There are so many unpredictable variables in life including ourselves. If we say, "I am alright everything is going just fine for me." Then God will remain strangely silent. During the time we rely on our own strength, God knows we will not look for any inspiration and spiritual guides. We tend to look to our own trusted resources. We look to our past experiences, we ask a family member or friend, or we GOOGLE for what we need. However, in our Catholic tradition, the God-given inspirations and spiritual guides come from the scriptures, the teachings of our Church, the use of our informed conscience, and the insights received from prayer. When our lives become uncertain and scary, we need to take the time to reflect about what we ought to do in good time. This is when we need to have a treasury of spiritual resources to draw from to see what inspiration and guidance they have to offer us.

The Season of Advent is the time given to us for contemplating the salvation given to us. The season encourages us not to try and land the best deals when it comes to our Christmas shopping or to go to extreme lengths to make our Christmas special. The Season of Advent reminds us of the past, when Jesus was born for the purpose of our salvation. It reminds us of Jesus' presence in our lives today. And it reminds us to look forward to when Jesus will come again at the end of the world.

During her time on earth, Blessed Theresa of Calcutta said, "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." So we have to be courageous enough to ask God our questions, to be humble enough to be open to God's reply, and to be patient enough to wait for God's plan of salvation available to each of us

### **MEN'S CLUB SILENT AUCTION**

Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m. viewing, 7:30 p.m. auction. The proceeds from this auction are used to assist St. Matthew's and COS families during the Christmas season. A portion is also sent to the School Sisters of Notre Dame retirement fund. Auction donations - bring to the St. Matthew's Scrip table on Saturday 12/9 or call Tim at 612.26.9471.

### **PLEASE REMEMBER**

*The Church of St. Matthew in a charitable will, trust, or gift annuity.*

# News and Events

## THE BELLS AT ST. MATTHEW

On December 3rd the Bells will ring in celebration of John & Jeanne Murphy's wedding anniversary. On November 29th the bells will ring for Avery Clare Murphy's 3rd birthday, Happy Birthday, Avery Clare!

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

The Rosary Society/CCW will hold a **Christmas Tea, Boutique & Bake Sale** next Saturday, December 9th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Invite a your daughter, your sister, or your best friend to an afternoon of Christmas shopping, scrumptious Christmas treats and lovely cup of Tea.



**Santa Claus is coming to Saint Matthew...that is Breakfast with Santa** on Sunday, December 10th. There will also be the **Rosary/CCW Bake Sale**. Bring the children and grandchildren to visit with the "Jolly Olde Elf". Come visit with Santa (bring a camera for to take photos), enjoy a wonderful breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage and beverage. Don't go home empty handed; stop at the Bake Sale and purchase your favorite Christmas cookies, bars and breads.

Breakfast with Santa is sponsored by St. Matthew's Men's Club and Boy Scout Troop 288.

## ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Students in grades 4 to 7 are invited to be altar servers. We will be training students on SATURDAY, December 16, at 2:30 pm. Meet inside the church for training from experienced servers and a sacristan who helps prepare the items used for celebrating Mass.

RSVP to [Janelle@st-matts.org](mailto:Janelle@st-matts.org). In your RSVP, include a parent's phone number and/or email address. Altar servers are scheduled for the Mass their family usually attend (4 PM Saturday or 10 AM Sunday). Being an altar server is a great way for you to participate in the Mass and to be of service to our church community. Come to the training to find out more!

## MASS OF SOLIDARITY: SHARE THE JOURNEY

**Saturday, 9 December, 5:00 PM, Basilica of St. Mary, Mpls.**  
Archbishop Hebda and Bishop Cozzens invite all Catholics to join our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters from around the world. This Mass is part of the 2-year "Share the Journey" campaign, launched by Pope Francis on 27 September, 2017, to support those who have left, or have been displaced from, their home countries. This Archdiocese is home to more than 800,000 Catholics celebrating Mass regularly in 11 different languages.

## WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS 11-26-17

Parish			
Envelopes/Cash	\$2,960	School	\$50
Electronic Giving	\$1,798		
Vigil Lights	\$28.65		
Fuel	\$25		
Fit It Fund Raiser	\$100		
Christmas Environment	\$215		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,126.65</b>		<b>\$50</b>

Thank You!

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 2**

4:00 pm Sarah & George Gubash†

**Sunday, December 3**

10:00 am Our Parish  
Katie Rosas†

**Monday, December 4**

Roberta Grady  
Special Intention

**Wednesday, December 6**

8:00 am Living & Deceased Rosary/CCW  
Members

**Friday, December 8**

8:00 am For All Mothers in honor of the Mary

**Saturday, December 9**

4:00 pm Ronald Crawford, Marina & Raymond  
Galep†

**Sunday, December 10**

10:00 am Our Parish  
Vern Achman†

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, December 2**

4:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, December 3**

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

Coffee Sunday

**Monday Dec 4- Friday - Dec. 8**

5:00-6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes SH

**Monday, December 4**

12:00 - 5:00 pm St. Mary's Clinic

**Tuesday, December 5**

**Wednesday, December 6**

8:00 am - 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic PC

6:30 pm Faith Formation Classes

7:30 pm Men's Club Board Meeting SH

**Thursday, December 7**

**Friday, December 8- Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Saturday, December 9**

1-4:00 pm Christmas Tea, Boutique & Bake Sale

4:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, December 10**

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Breakfast with Santa/Bake Sale

Sale

## Children's Corner

### Baptism



### We Belong to God's Family

From the Word Bank, write the missing words of the sentences in the puzzle. Each word is numbered.

Then unscramble the letters in the darker boxes to find out the name of the Family of God.

WORD BANK		
ONE	SON	THREE
GOD'S	HOLY	CHILD
SIGN	SPIRIT	CROSS
FATHER	BAPTIZED	

We belong to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Family.  
We become members of God's Family when we are (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
I am a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of God.  
There is only (4) \_\_\_\_\_ God. But there are (5) \_\_\_\_\_ persons in God. They are called the (6) \_\_\_\_\_, (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and (8) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. We make the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to show that we are members of God's Family.

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

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