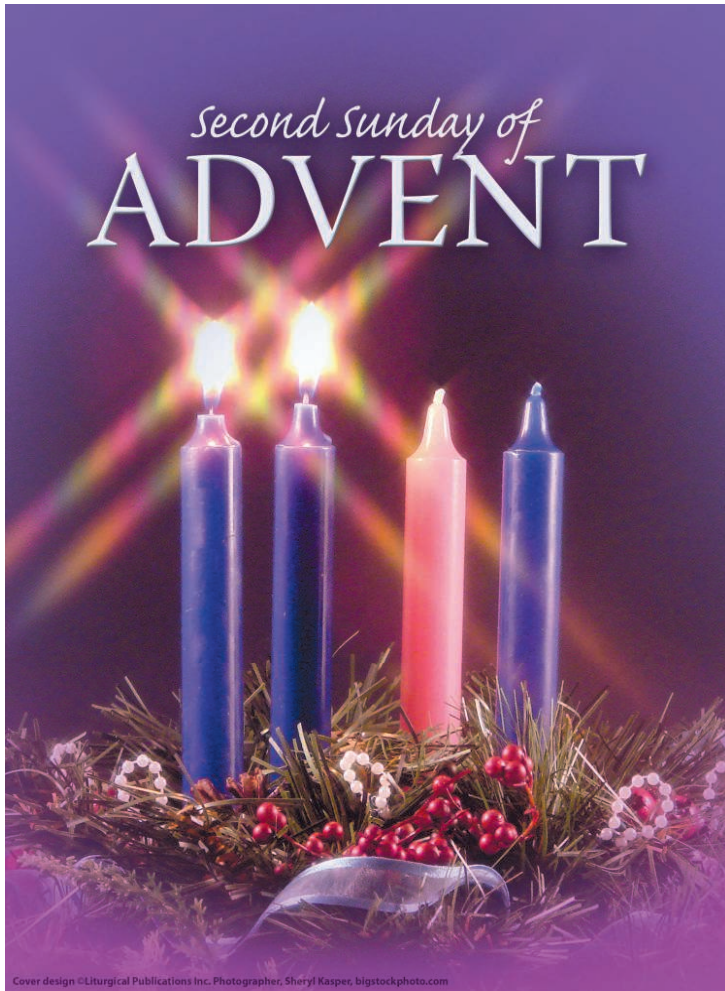




Church of St. Matthew

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December 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

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All emails are

@st-matts.org

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frbobbkellyop

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srannebecker

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jillkilzer

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skowal

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jriehle

Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary

lrivera

Church - 510 Hall Avenue

Parish Center - 490 Hall Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55107

651-224-9793

Fax 651.222.2688

Website: st-matts.org

FACEBOOK: 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.*

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

Readings for the Week of December 10, 2017

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2

Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

PREPARE THE WAY!



Advent is a time of waiting, listening, holding back, and watching the beauty of both the day and the night take place. It can be a good time for spiritual reflection by asking ourselves important questions like: “How am I different this year than I was last year?” “What has changed within me?” “What has changed around me?” “What seems to be the same?” “How do I need Christ in my life and my world this year?” But let’s be real! Advent is also a time of preparing for Christmas. This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve which shortens our preparation time for Christmas all the more.

The gospel reading this weekend points out to us that the struggle to prepare for the coming of the Messiah while being overwhelmed by the hustle and bustle of our world is not new. While the introduction for John the Baptist’s proclamation “To prepare the way of the Lord” appears to be set against a background of peace and tranquility, we know from history that the Roman Empire had gained control over the lands that border the Mediterranean Sea. There was an enormous and complex system of business and finance dominated by international trade, an enforced system of taxation, and large bodies of slave labor. There was a diverse assortment of ethnic peoples, high government and religious officials, merchants, small business people, slaves, and minorities who were the poorest of the poor.

The writer of Mark’s Gospel solemnly declares that God chooses to intervene at this moment in history with all its complexities and challenges by quoting the Prophet Isaiah, “Behold I am sending my messenger ahead of you: he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’”

A question that comes from the age-old struggle to keep Advent while preparing for Christmas is: “How do we wait and watch for God in the busyness of our Christmas preparation?” I believe that we have to calmly and consciously accept the reality of the Christmas rush but at the same time cultivate a separate preparation for the coming of the Messiah. This cultivation means being attentive not only to the beautiful and colorful Christmas lights but also to the women and men, often from third world countries, who manufactured the lights. It means being attentive to not only the ringing of the Salvation Army bells but also the volunteers who are ringing the bells often in damp, cold and unpleasant winter weather. It means being appreciative of people whose effort and time have prepared various holiday festivities. It means being attentive to our own emotional make-up that motivates us to be watchful in the first place.

I believe this reflective approach is in sharp contrast to the noisy busyness of the world’s preparation for Christmas. It needs to be practiced and developed like learning to play a musical instrument, to use a sewing machine, or to master a computer program. I believe we need to grasp the urgency in today’s gospel reading. It is time to get ready. There is work to be done, paths to be straightened, valleys to be filled, mountains and hills to be laid low so that what is inside us is as important as what is under our Christmas tree.



LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

After the New Year, St. Matthew would like to offer the Liturgy of the Word for Children to children ages 3 to 7 during the 10:00 am Sunday Mass. Children would go with a teacher to the chapel where age appropriate learning activities focused on the Sunday Gospel take place. Adults are needed to teach and older students (grades 6 and up) are needed as helpers. We hope to offer this from January to May. If there are enough volunteers and families with children who prefer the Saturday 4:00 pm Mass, the faith formation program can be offered at that time as well. If you would like to volunteer or want more information, contact Janelle Rohr by email (Janelle@st-matts.org) or by phone [651-457-3522](tel:651-457-3522).

News and Events

THE BELLS AT ST. MATTHEW

On December 10th the Bells will ring in memory of Sarah & George Gubash.

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. 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!

FAITH FORMATION ADVENT SERVICE

Wednesday, December 13, is our last Faith Formation class before Christmas and the New Year, and we will celebrate with a prayer service honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe (feast day, December 12). Students should come to their Parish Center classroom at 6:30 pm. They will go with their teacher to church for the 7:00 pm service and can be picked up from church at 7:45 pm. Parents/guardians and parishioners are welcome to come to the prayer service, too. We will be collecting food for the needy, so please bring along a nonperishable food item. The food will go to Neighborhood House.

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.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS 12-03-17

Parish			
Envelopes/Cash	\$4,259	School	\$259
Electronic Giving	\$202		
Vigil Lights	\$28		
Holyday	\$167		
Mass Intentions	\$21		
Rosary Reimbursement	\$449		
Religious Retirement	\$2		
Oktoberfest Ad Donation	\$115		
Faith Formation	\$35		
Catholic Appeal	\$25		
Rent	\$450		
Christmas Environment	\$240		
Wolfgang Concert	\$10		
Mass Stipend	\$200		
Total	\$6,228		\$259

Thank You!

PLEASE REMEMBER

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 9

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

Sunday, December 10

10:00 am Our Parish
Vern Achman†

Monday, December 11

8:00 am Lloyd Baker, Jr.
Special Intention

Wednesday, December 13

8:00 am Gerry Garvey†

Friday, December 15

8:00 am John & Carol Murphy
Special Intention

Saturday, December 16

4:00 pm David Andrews†

Sunday, December 17

10:00 am Our Parish
Mark Bidon†

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, December 9

1:00 pm Liturgy Meeting PC
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

Monday Dec 11- Friday - Dec. 15

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

Monday, December 11

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

Tuesday, December 12 - Feast of Our Lady Of Guadalupe

6:45 pm Rosary Meeting SH

Wednesday, December 13

8:00 am - 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic PC
6:30 pm Faith Formation Classes
7:00 pm Advent Service C
7:00 pm Men's Club Silent Auction SH

Thursday, December 14

Friday, December 15

Saturday, December 16 Food Collection

4:00 pm Mass

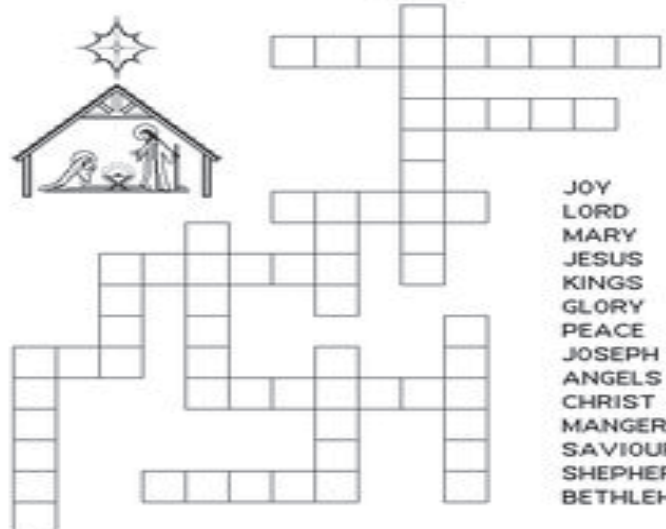
Sunday, December 17 Food Collection

9:00 am Choir Practice
10:00 am Mass
11:00 am Coffee Sunday SH

Children's Corner

Christmas Crossword

Take all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.



JOY
LORD
MARY
JESUS
KINGS
GLORY
PEACE
JOSEPH
ANGELS
CHRIST
MANGER
SAVIOR
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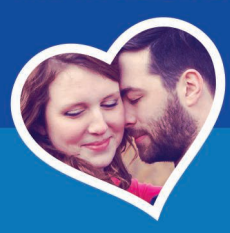
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