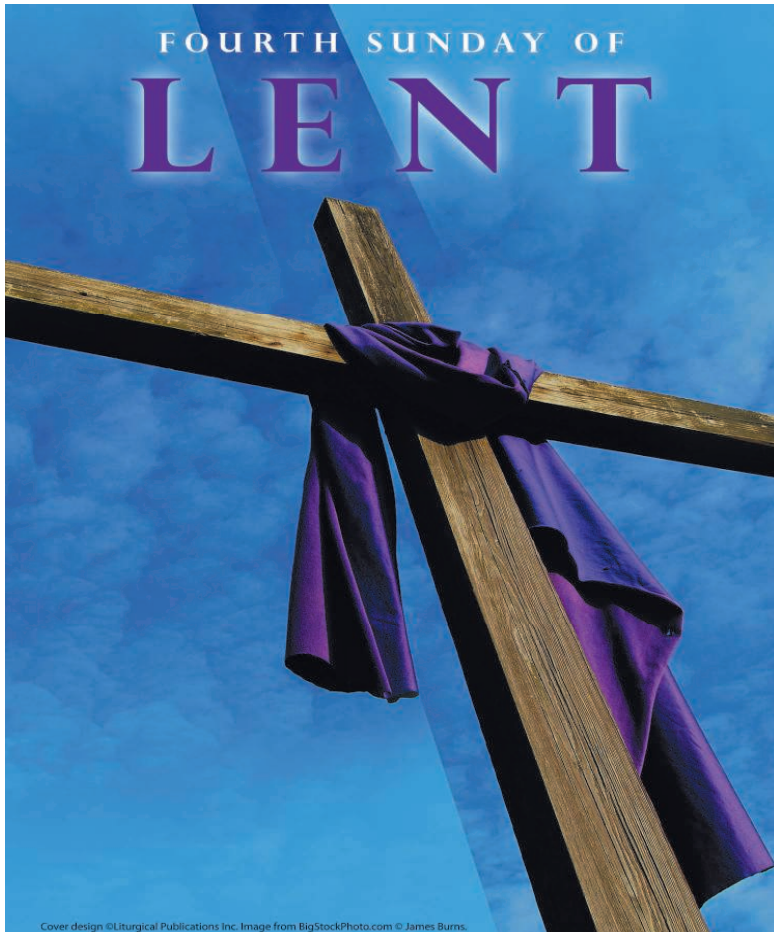




# Church of St. Matthew

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



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## **March 11, 2018** **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

### **Parish Staff**

**All emails are**

**@st-matts.org**

Rev. Robert Kelly, OP, Parochial Administrator  
frbobbkellyop

Deacon John Murphy

Deacon Gregg Sroder

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srannebecker

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jillkilzer

Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer

skowal

John Riehle, Administrator

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Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary

lrivera

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**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](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 March 11, 2018**

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/  
Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps  
23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-  
17, 34-38

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/  
Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]Jn  
5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-  
47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 [19a]/  
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-  
53 Scrutiny: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Ps 130:1-  
2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20  
-27, 33b-45

### **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**

## LIGHT AND LIFE!



During our lives all of us experience some kind of temporary darkness. As infants, our parents likely pulled a blanket over our heads to protect us from the wind and cold. During winter blizzards in Minnesota, it is not uncommon for neighborhoods and rural homes to be plunged into darkness for a moment, for hours, or for days at a time. As drivers, we enter a highway tunnel and darkness surrounds us until our car lights turn on. As people who live with family and in community, we tiptoe in the darkness until the sun rises so that others can sleep.

It then should come as no surprise to us that images of darkness and light appear again and again throughout the scriptures as well as our religious tradition. The first thing that we read in the Jewish scriptures is that, "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland and darkness covered the abyss. . . ." (Gen. 1:1-2). The very first action of God was to say, "'Let there be light'; and there was light and God saw how good the light was" (Gen. 1:3-4).

In our Christian tradition we follow ancient Jewish religious practices. Lit candles and burning oil lamps are used to show that God is with us. The early Jews called God's presence the "Shekinah". This word means where God is dwelling, settling or where God's divine presence is manifested. This glory is seen when God's glory filled the temple and even in the wilderness where God was a light during the night and the Shekinah cloud of his glory shaded Israel in the scorching sun of the desert. God's presence was manifested by the intense light that filled the tabernacle, the temple in Jerusalem and even in the Transfiguration where Jesus shone brighter than the sun when he spoke with Moses and with Elijah as Peter, James and John looked on.

There is a Jewish story that the pagan Emperor Hadrian said to Rabbi Joshua, "I desire greatly to see your God." Rabbi Joshua asked him to stand facing the brilliant summer sun, and said, "Gaze upon it." The emperor said, "I cannot, it is too bright." "Then," said Rabbi Joshua, "If you are not able to look upon the sun, a servant of God, how much less may you gaze upon the *Shekinah*?"

The gospel according to John uses the metaphor of light to describe both God the Father as light and Jesus the son of God as light to teach the Johannine community that they themselves should shine as light on hilltops and not hide their faith in God temporarily under bushel baskets out of fear. In today's gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus, who comes to him in the dark of night, that whoever lives the truth lives in light.

We know that there can be no life without light. In Jesus we all are given a brilliant light a new life, a distinctive way of experiencing the world. It is like the disciples at Emmaus when they saw Jesus in the scriptures and the breaking of the bread. We perceive our world and give meaning to the world through the new light of faith in Jesus Christ. I believe it can best be described using a story.

"The cave heard a voice calling to it: 'Come up into the light... come and see the sunshine.' The cave replied: 'I don't know what you mean; there isn't anything here but darkness.' Finally the cave ventured forth and was surprised to see light all around. Looking up to the sun, the cave said: 'Come with me and see my darkness.' The sun agreed and entered the cave... 'Now show me your darkness!' But there was no darkness."

Today's gospel calls us to go into the light and to invite new life to come into our world. "For God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (Jn 3:16).



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# News and Events

## BELLS OF SAINT MATTHEW

The bells at Saint Matthew will ring on March 11th for Consolation & Jovito Guiwan.

## WE WELCOME INTO OUR COMMUNITY

Arianna Marie Fortune, child of Evelyn Rosario-Ramos and Douglas Fortune and Rosie Evelyn Flores, child of Laura Flores and Juan Ortega. These children were baptized by Father Bob on Sunday, March 4, 2018.

## THANK YOU NEIGHBOR

Thank to all who participated in our February 17 & 18 collection for the food shelf at Neighborhood House. Through your efforts we donated 213 pounds of non-perishable food and personal items. Your monthly contributions help friends and neighbors in our area feed themselves and their families. Thank you for your generosity. Our next collections are March 17 & 18.



## FISH FRY - EVERY FRIDAY THROUGH MARCH 30TH

Dinner includes: Baked potato, cole slaw, veggie, roll, beverage, all you care to eat baked or fried fish & dessert. Adults \$11, Seniors \$10, Children 5-12 \$6 and under 5 free with a paid adult. Served in the Social Hall located at 510 Hall Ave.



## FIRST COMMUNION DRESSES AVAILABLE

The Silent Auction Committee has been given two new First Communion Dresses. Since this is the time of year when girls need these dresses we are making them available for purchase now. The new dresses are one size 7 and one size 10. We are asking \$30.00 for each. There is also a size 12 vintage dress if someone is in need of a dress. If you are interested in seeing the dresses please contact the parish office. All proceeds go to St. Matthew's Church.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, March 10

4:00 pm Eugene Gonsowski†

### Sunday, March 11

10:00 am Our Parish

Consolation & Jovito Guiwan†

### Monday, March 12

8:00 am Eileen Garvey

### Wednesday, March 14

8:00 am Rosary/CCW Living & Deceased Members

### Friday, March 16

8:00 am Marina Galep†

### Saturday, March 17

4:00 pm Vern Achman†

### Sunday, March 18

10:00 am Our Parish

Ronald Crawford†

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Saturday, March 10

4:00 pm Mass w/Confirmation Students Blessing

5:00 pm Community Dinner SH

### Sunday, March 11 Daylight Savings Begins

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

11:00 am Coffee Sunday

### Monday, March 12

8:00 am Mass

No St. Mary's Clinic Today

### Monday, March 12-Thursday, March 15

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

### Tuesday, March 13

6:45 pm Rosary/CCW Meeting SH

### Wednesday, March 14

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

6:30 pm Faith Formation

7:30 pm Men's Club Meeting SH

### Thursday, March 15

9:30 am Mass COS

### Friday, March 16

8:00 am Mass

4:00 pm Stations of the Cross C

4:30 - 7:30 Fish Fry SH

### Saturday, March 17

4:00 pm Mass Food Collection Weekend

Sunday, March 18 Food Collection Weekend

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

11:00 am Coffee Sunday



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday of Lent at 4:00 p.m.

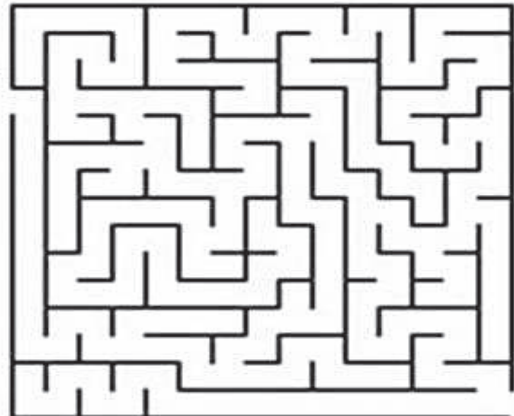
Children's Corner

## WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS 03-04-2018

Parish		School	\$ 283
Envelopes/Cash	\$ 3,445		
Electronic Giving	\$ 202		
Vigil Lights	\$ 16		
Fuel	\$ 145		
Century Link	\$ 50		
Easter Flowers	\$ 300		
Loaves & Fishes	\$ 757		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,915</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 283</b>
Thank You		Thank You	

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Help Jesus get to the bread and fish



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