

Church of St. Matthew

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



December 8, 2019

**Advent II
Shape Up**

Liturgy Schedule

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday | 8:00 am | Mass |
| Tuesday | 8:00 am | Mass |
| Wednesday | 8:00 am | Scripture/Communion Service |
| Thursday | 9:10 am | Mass at COS |
| Friday | 8:00 am | Mass |
| Saturday | 4:15 pm | Mass |
| Sunday | 10:15 am | Mass |

Reconciliation

1st & 3rd Saturday After 4:15 pm Mass
2nd & 4th Sunday After 10:15 am Mass

Prayer Line 651.457.0228

Readings for the week of December 8, 2019

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
 Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/ Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Stewardship Bulletin Reflection

On this Second Sunday of Advent, our second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans encourages us to focus our Advent preparations in this way: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." And how does Christ welcome us? With unconditional love.

This is the essence of Christian hospitality, a vital aspect of stewardship living. Fully embraced, it has the power to transform our lives and the lives of those who experience it through us.

The practice of Christian hospitality is also a way for us stewards to answer the call of John the Baptist, in our Gospel passage from Matthew. His words apply just as much to us today as they did to the people awaiting the Savior's arrival. John says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" And he recalls the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." There is a definite connection between repentance and effective hospitality.

How can we make repentance a regular part of our everyday lives? We can make an "examination of conscience" a daily part of our prayers, thanking God for the times we said "yes" to Him, and asking forgiveness for the times we chose our own will. We can, and should, go to Confession this Advent. We can reach out to a family member or friend where there is distance or discord and make peace.

As we "straighten the paths" of our own hearts and minds, we become more hospitable people, better stewards of God's grace and mercy, far more open and ready to invite others into our lives, homes, and parish. This is preparation fitting for our merciful Savior.

- *The Catholic Steward*



Mary Leibl,
Volunteer
Coordinator

Volunteer Opportunities & Parish Needs

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

We need volunteers to continue the work of serving our parish and community. Currently we have 3 continuing opportunities.

LITURGICAL MUSICIANS

In need of Choir members, Cantors & Instrumentalists. The choir sings for Sunday 10:15 am Mass and practices on alternate weeks September-May. We practice weekly during Advent and Lent. The Choir practices at 9:15 am. Next practice will be Sunday, December 15th. Cantors and instrumentalists are needed for both weekend Masses. As we begin the Advent & Christmas seasons more volunteers would be appreciated!

CHRISTMAS MUSICIANS

Do you love Christmas music? Please consider blending your talents with those of St. Matthew's Liturgical Musicians. Vocalists, guitarists, keyboardists, and other instrumentalists are most welcome and needed! Contact Jill Kilzer, Music Director, for more information. jillkilzer@st-matts.org

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

We will begin decorating the church for the Christmas feast immediately after the 10:15 Mass on December 22nd. Please mark your calendars. We ask anyone who is available to help, to join us in this endeavor. **Confirmation Candidates:** This will be a perfect time to work on your Confirmation projects.

I invite anyone who could help with these volunteer opportunities to contact me through the parish office or email me at mleibl@st-matts.org

THANK YOU!

We are a Volunteer Parish!! The future of our parish depends on our dedicated volunteers!!

Thank you to the **Ahern family** who each year donate the garland and wreaths which decorate our church during the Christmas season!

Thank You to **Bernie** who picked up and delivered the wreaths & garland.

Thank You to the **Boy Scouts and Men's Club** who together donated and purchased the outdoor wreaths decorating the front of the church.

Thank You to **Steve** and **Bob** who decorated the front of the church with the garland and wreaths.

Thank you to **Mary & Bob** who decorated our sanctuary for the Advent season.

Thank You to all who have donated to **Isaac's Blessing Bags!** We will be collecting items through the weekend of December 7/8. You may place your donations in the box near the Scrip table. Donations may also be brought to the Parish Center during the week if that is more convenient.

News and Events

ADVENT II MESSAGE

Shape Up



LITURGICAL PRAYERS

We participate fully in the liturgy when we take part in both the sung and spoken prayers.

Last weekend we used a different statement of our Profession of Faith. For the next weeks we will use the Apostles' Creed. The current words to that Creed are on page 4 of the "Mass insert" in the back of the hymnal.

We will use the Nicene Creed from February through Lent [the current words to that Creed are also on page 4 of the "Mass insert" in the back of the hymnal]. During the Easter Season will use the Baptismal promises.

We will continue to use the "Synod" prayer as a conclusion of the General Intercessions. That prayer was written for the archdiocesan synod that will occur on Pentecost weekend in 2021. Fr. Michael Joncas has written a melody for that prayer; we may sing it on special occasions. Please go to the website of the archdiocese [www.archspm.org] to keep up-to-date about what is happening in preparation for the Synod.

THANK YOU NEIGHBOR

The last collection for Neighborhood House food shelf on November 16 & 17 we donated 511 pounds of food and personal care items. Our next collection date is December 14 & 15. Please be as generous as you are able. Thank you for helping to feed our friends and neighbors.



ROSARY/CCW NEWS

The next Rosary/CCW meeting will be on Tuesday, December 10th at 1:00 pm at the parish center. We will discuss final plans for the Holiday Boutique & Tea, Bake Sale on Saturday, December 14th and the Bake Sale on December 15th. Please join us to help prepare for this annual event. New members are always welcome to our meetings.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS November 30, & December 1, 2019

Volunteer Service

Hours in prayer 24
Hours in service 68

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Parish | | School | \$ | 454 |
| Envelopes/Cash | \$ 2,617 | | | |
| Electronic Giving | \$ 942 | Total | \$ | 454 |
| Vigil Lights | \$ 32 | | | |
| Funeral | \$ 550 | | | |
| Roof Donation | \$ 975 | | | |
| Energy | \$ 50 | | | |
| Bells | \$ 10 | | | |
| Roof Fund | \$ 100 | | | |
| Flowers | \$ 75 | | | |
| Total | \$ 5,351 | | | |

Thank You



Let the bells of Saint Matthew ring for your special, memorable or notable occasion.

This is a lovely way to celebrate a wedding anniversary, remember a loved one who is no longer living, announce the great news of a new grandchild. Too many heartfelt reasons to name...contact Linda Rivera at the parish office to schedule your special day.

BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. STEVE

The first semester of Bible study continues on Decem 14 and 21—Saturday mornings from 9:15 to 11:00 am. This semester concentrates on the Gospel of Matthew until the beginning of the Passion. [That will be semester #2 during Lent; semester #3 will be the Acts of the Apostles—during Eastertime.]

Presentations will be in the Parish Center, lower level. (parking is possible on the playground)

Pre-registration is not necessary, but it would be very helpful. Please call the office. 651.224.9793

FREE CONCERT

The Saint Paul Civic Symphony will preform at Saint Matthew's on Sunday, December 8th at 3:00 pm.



The Symphony features a marvelous young cellist Alexander Hersh. Jeffrey Stirling, music director. Come enjoy this wonderful performance in our very own church!

DECEMBER EVENTS

December 8 St. Paul Civic Symphony
December 14 - Holiday Boutique & Tea, Bake Sale, Gift Baskets & Bottle Lotto
December 15 - Breakfast with Santa and Bake Sale
December 15 Communal Penance Service

MEN'S CLUB NEWS

All men of the parish are invited to attend the next regular meeting of the Men's Club on Wednesday, December 11th at 8:00 pm in the Social Hall. Final details will be made for the Breakfast with Santa to be held on December 15th. Many hands are needed for a successful event, so we hope to see many members at this meeting.

New to the parish? Haven't been to a meeting awhile? Please come on Wednesday, lend a hand, lend an ear..., join the conversation. See you on Wednesday.

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

You are invited to attend the Communal Service of the Sacrament of Penance on Sunday, December 15th at 3:00 pm, Father Steve Adrian will lead the celebration of the Sacrament.

CALENDAR CLARIFICATIONS

Monday, December 9: 8:00 am Mass for the Observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is a holyday, but not of obligation.

Tuesday, December 24: 8:00 am daily Mass; 4:15 pm Christmas Eve Mass.

Wednesday : Christmas Day - Mass at 10:15 am

Tuesday, December 31: 8:00am daily Mass: 4:15 pm

New Year's Eve Mass.

Wednesday: New Year's Day - Mass at 10:15 am

Parish Leadership

All emails are @st-matts.org

Rev. Steve Adrian, Sacramental Minister
sadrian

Rev. Rick Banker, Parochial Administrator
rbanker@stedwardschurch.org

Sister Anne Becker, Pastoral Ministry
srannebecker

John DelVecchio, Parish Trustee
jdelvecchio

Scott Hertzog, Janitor

Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry
jillkilzer

Bernie Klein, Accounts Payable & Receivable
bklein

Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer
skowal

Reyes Ledesma, Janitor

Mary Leibl, Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl

John Riehle, Pastoral Administrator
jriehle

Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary
lrivera

Richard Schletty, website & social media
webmaster

Deacon Gregg Sroder, Deacon
sroderg@archspm.org

Karen Thompson, Parish Trustee
kthompson

Parish Pastoral Council
parishcouncil

Members:

Suzanne Clarke Becky Montgomery

Jerald Dosch Ellen Schneider

David Jondro Joanne Smith

Jackie Lackner Barbara Strom

John Riehle, Ex Officio

Finance Council Members

John DelVecchio Joe Stevens

Bernie Klein John Riehle

Becky Montgomery Joanne Smith

John Sekevitch Karen Thompson

Church - 510 Hall Avenue

Parish Center - 490 Hall Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55107

Telephone 651.224.9793

Fax 651.222.2688

Website: st-matts.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sacraments

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

Bulletin

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 7

4:15 pm Mary Jane Sperl†

Sunday, December 8

10:15 am Our Parish;
Pam, Lucille & Robert Stickler, Sr.†

Monday, December 9

8:00 am Mary Schweich†

Tuesday, December 10

8:00 am Rudy Saucedo, Jr.†

Friday, December 13

8:00 am Claudette Borgan, Special Intention

Saturday, December 14

4:15 pm Jose Martinez†

Sunday, December 15

10:15 am Our Parish;
Arthur Geis†

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, December 7 Advent II

9:15 am Father Steve's Gospel Series PC/LL

4:15 pm Mass

Sunday, December 8 Advent II

9:15 am Choir Practice CH

10:15 am Mass with Children Liturgy of the Word

Reconciliation after Mass

Coffee Sunday following Mass SH

3:00 pm St. Paul Civic Symphony CH

Monday – Friday December 9 – December 13

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

Monday, December 9

12:00 - 5:00 pm St. Mary Clinic PC

Tuesday, December 10

1:00 pm Rosary/CCW Meeting PC

Wednesday, December 11

8:00 am - 12:00 pm St. Mary's Clinic

6:30 pm Faith Formation Classes PC/CH

8:00 pm Men's Club Meeting SH

Thursday, December 12

9:10 am Mass at COS

Friday, December 13

Saturday, December 14 Advent III

9:15 am Father Steve's Gospel Series PC/LL

1:00 - 4:00 pm Holiday Boutique &/ Tea, Bake Sale,
Gift Baskets, Bottle Lotto, Ornaments, & More

4:15 pm Mass Food Collection Weekend

Reconciliation after Mass

Sunday, December 15 Advent III

9:15 am Choir Practice CH

10:15 am Mass with Children Liturgy of the Word

Food Collection Weekend

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

Gift Baskets-Bottle Lotto, Ornaments & More

3:00 pm Advent Communal Penance Service

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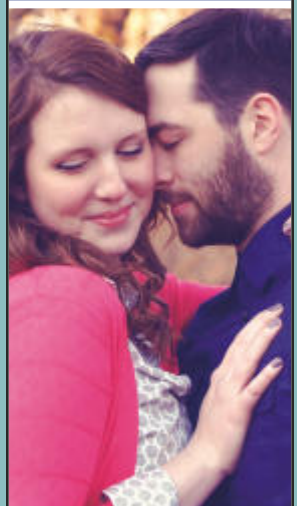
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