



Church of St. Matthew

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



**December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday**

Liturgy Schedule

Masses

**In person 4:15 pm Saturday
Streamed 10:15 am Sunday**

Reconciliation

**2nd and 4th Saturday of the month
following 4:15 pm Mass**

Baptism, Matrimony, Anointing of the sick
Please call the parish office for each

***Prayer Line* 651.457.0228**

Readings for the week of December 13, 2020

**Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54
[Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28**

**Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and
7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27**

**Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19
and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32**

**Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and
10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23**

**Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17
[cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17**

**Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt
1:18-25**

**Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16
-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25**

Stewardship Bulletin Reflection

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" is a Latin word, meaning "rejoice." The Christian steward should be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing.

Our First Reading, from Isaiah, expresses a fitting motto for us. "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul." It is God Who is the source of our joy and contentment — not things or achievements or comfort, but our relationship with God.

This is why stewards can share so freely of their time, talents and material possessions — because ultimately, we are not attached to these things. We recognize them as good gifts from our loving Father, but we are attached to the Giver of the gifts, not the gifts themselves. This allows for great freedom in life and the capacity for great joy in the Lord.

We can become like John the Baptist, in today's Gospel passage from the Book of John. We read this description of the prophet: "He came for testimony, to testify to the light... He was not the light but came to testify to the light." This is our calling too — to testify to the Light, our wonderful Savior — by the way we make use of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to our care.

When God Himself is the source of our joy, it cannot be taken away from us. There is still time, this Advent season, to clear away any "clutter" in our lives that may take our focus away from Him. Let us strive to detach from any of these things so that we can be free to truly rejoice in God on Christmas Day.

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

COMMUNION TO HOMEBOUND

Do you have family, neighbors or friends who are unable to attend mass? If you would like to take communion to them in their homes, call the Parish Center or see a Sacristan before mass. If you do not have a pyx one will be provided.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

The church will be decorated for the Christmas season after the 4:15 pm mass next Saturday, December 19th. Confirmation students have been asked to help, and this will **help** to fulfill their Service Projects needed for Confirmation. **We also invite any parishioners** who are able, to stay and help decorate the Christmas trees, bring statues from chapel and decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas Feast!

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

THANK YOU to the **52** parishioners, who attended our public Mass Saturday, December 6th. As we continue to film that Mass for those who wish to attend the **Sunday Mass online**, we thank our celebrant **Fr. Adrian** who offers Mass for us and through the words of his homily gives us strength & hope as we live through these trying days. To **John** who assists where needed and makes sure everyone & everything is where it needs to be. To our Pianist **Jill** and our Cantor **Linda**. To **Ellen** and **Jerald** who presented the readings and to Eucharistic ministers **Karen** and **Mary**. Thank you to our ushers **Doris, James & Tim**, and Servers/Sacristans **Ginny & Mary**. We are all especially grateful to **Alan!** He came forward last March and offered to film all our services. He then edits the production and puts it out on the web for all to view! He continues to investigate ways to continually improve the production! Alan makes it possible for us to come together and worship as a parish, during an exceedingly difficult time. If you were not able to join the service as it happened, you can watch the Mass on the **st-matts.org Website/Facebook page** or on **YouTube**.

THANK YOU to the **Ahern family** who donated the wreaths and garlands for our Advent & Christmas decorations!

THANK YOU to the **high school students** from **Trinity Heights High School in Eagan**, the students removed several pieces of metal furniture from the lower level of the parish center. Thank you also to People of Praise resident, Jim Cahill, who arranged for the student to take the furniture away. We are working to de-clutter the lower level of unused items...this helped greatly.

News and Events

Saint Matthew's motto-to be the Good Samaritan on the banks of the Mississippi.

WITH NUMBERS RISING IN MINNESOTA, IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO DO THE FOLLOWING BEFORE ATTENDING MASS

While Saint Matthew welcomes all to our parish, we want to have a safe environment for everyone. Before attending Mass, please consider the following questions and if you answer "yes", please do not attend Mass in person, but rather follow us on our website.

1. In the past 14 days have you been exposed to Covid-19 or been in contact with someone who has been exposed?
2. Are you or any one you know experiencing any of the following symptoms you cannot attribute to another condition; fever, chills, new cough, new sore throat, new headache, new loss of smell or taste, new muscle aches or new shortness of breath?
3. **For everyone's safety and health, masks are required; distance is requested; and signing in for contact tracing is necessary.**

CHANGES FOR IN-PERSON MASS ATTENDANCE

1. The long-handled collection baskets will be used for the regular and any special collections. There will NOT be a basket near the entrance.
2. Please follow these guidelines for communion reception.
 - A. Use personal sanitizer [that you brought]
 - B. Come forward with your mask in place.
 - C. Keep distance as you come forward.
 - D. Keep your left hand as flat as possible.
 - E. Accept the host from the person distributing; take 2 or 3 steps to the side; move your mask up or down; communicate yourself; replace mask and return to your place. Thank you.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS December 5-6, 2020

Volunteer Service

Hours in prayer 44
Hours in service 47

Parish

Envelopes/Cash \$ 3,847
Electronic Giving \$ 1,351
Miscellaneous \$ 185
PayPal \$ 50
Masses/Memorials \$ 794
Fuel \$ 72
Rent \$ 7,259
Holy Day \$ 2,025
Sanctuary Lamp \$ 0
Vigil Lights \$ 33
Flower Fund \$ 680
Bells \$ 30

Total \$ 16,326
Thank You!

School

\$ 434
Food Shelf \$ 20
Religious \$ 20
Retirement
Total \$ 474

Thank You!

PayPal QR Code

simply scan with your phone to make an electronic stewardship offering



THE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF ST. MATT'S

The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe for the living and deceased Rosary/CCW members.

The sanctuary lamp will be lit December 12-19 in memory of **Claudette Borgon**.

Contact Linda Rivera at lrivera@st-matts.org or 651.224.9793 by 1:00 pm Monday-Thursday if you would like to schedule a day to ring the bells, or a week to light the sanctuary lamp for your special memory or event.

PARISH RECONCILIATION

All are invited to our annual Communal Service of the Sacrament of Penance on Sunday, December 20th at 2:00 pm.

FROM PARISH MAILING

1. There was a flower envelope included that can be used to help defray the seasonal decorations for Christmas [and throughout the year]. There is room for the correct information. **If you will use currency, please write your name on the reverse; then we have acknowledgement information.**

2. A pledge card for 2021 was included. Filling this out will help the finance council make prudent decisions on the budget. Is it possible for you to increase your donation by \$1 a week or \$1 a month? Each increase will make budgeting easier. Thanks in advance.

3. Christmas envelope: please use the one included for your Christmas [and other] donation. Please use the return envelope for any and all of these communications.

In the name of a grateful parish: thank you very much for your continued, faithful support. Thanks for helping St. Matt's continue to be the "Good Samaritan" on the banks of the Mississippi..

PARISH MAILING

Did you receive the seasonal greeting card signed by one of the pastoral council members? We have more of those cards [with nothing printed inside]. If you would like some, with envelopes, we will have them available--\$.50 each gives a few cents income to the parish beyond the production cost.

We'll have some at Church and also in the office. Call ahead so we have enough for your.

THANK YOU NEIGHBOR

Next weekend, December 19 & 20 will be the regular collection for Neighborhood House Food Shelf. Non-perishable food items as well as paper products and personal care items are needed.

Our last collection on November 14th delivered 206 pounds of food and care items to Neighborhood House.

With continued unemployment due to Covid-19 the use of food shelves has increased dramatically. If you are not attending Mass at this time a monetary donation to Neighborhood House would be equally appreciated. Mail your contribution to 179 Robie Street East, St. Paul, MN 55107.

Parish Leadership

All emails are @st-matts.org

Rev. Steve Adrian, Sacramental Minister
sadrian

John DelVecchio, Parish Trustee
jdelvecchio

Scott Hertzog, Janitor

Kevin Jack, website & social media webmaster
kevinjack

Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry
jillkilzer

Bernie Klein, Accounts Payable & Receivable
bklein

Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer
skowal

Reyes Ledesma, Janitor

Mary Leibl, Volunteer Coordinator
Mleibl

Rev. Biju Mathew, Parochial Administrator
frbijum@gmail.com

John Riehle, Pastoral Administrator
jriehle

Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary
lrivera

Janelle Rohr, Faith Formation
jdrohr@pro-ns.net

Karen Thompson, Parish Trustee
kthompson

Parish Pastoral Council

parishcouncil

Members:

Alan Christensen

Janelle Rohr

Suzanne Clarke

Linda Sellars

Jerald Dosch

Joanne Smith

Jackie Lackner

Barbara Strom

Tiffany Rivera-Prescott

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

YouTube: youtube.com/stmattswestside

Twitter: twitter.com/stmattswestside

Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Closed on Friday

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 12/December 13

4:15 pm Our Parish
Claudette Borgan†

Monday, December 14

Cancelled

Tuesday, December 15

8:00 am Cancelled

Friday, December 18

8:00 am Cancelled

Saturday, December 19/December 20

4:15 pm Our Parish
Ronald Crawford†
Virginia Koenen†

Calendar of Events

Saturday, December 12

10:00 am AA Meeting Parish Center
4:15 pm Mass with 2nd Collection for Religious Retired
Confession follow Mass

Sunday, December 13 Third Sunday of Advent

POPE FRANCIS' anniversary of ordination [1969]!

10:15 am Mass Streamed
Please support 2nd Collection by mailing in your donation

Monday, December 14 - Friday December 18

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes **Meals Are Being Served As Take-Out Only At This Time**

Monday, December 14

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Parish Office Open
St. Mary's Clinic Cancelled

Tuesday, December 15

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Parish Office Open

Wednesday, December 16

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Parish Office Open
1:00 pm St. Mary's Clinic - by appointment only
6:45 pm Faith Formation Advent Mass K-10 grades, families may attend too.

Thursday, December 17

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Parish Office Open

Friday, December 18

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, December 19

10:00 am AA Meeting Parish Center
4:15 pm Mass with 2nd Collection Neighborhood House
Food Shelf

Confessions follow Mass

Sunday, December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:15 am Mass Streamed
Please support Food Shelf by mailing in your donation
to Neighborhood House
2:00 pm Parish Reconciliation

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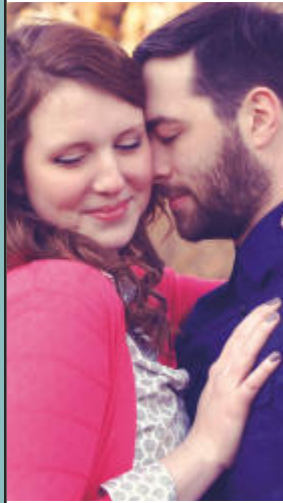
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