



Church of St. Matthew

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

Third Sunday of **ADVENT**



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December 11, 2022

Liturgy Schedule

Masses

Saturday 4:15 PM (in-person)

Sunday 10:15 AM (in-person)

Sunday 10:15 AM (Saturday Mass available for viewing online)

Reconciliation

2nd & 4th Saturday and 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month following Mass

Please contact the parish office regarding

Baptism, Matrimony, First Communion, Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick

Church 510 Hall Avenue
Parish Center 490 Hall Avenue
(Mailing Address) St. Paul, MN 55107

Telephone (651) 224-9793

Fax (651) 222-2688

Prayer Line (651) 424-6677

Website www.st-matts.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew

YouTube www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew

Twitter twitter.com/stmattswestside

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Wednesday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday Closed

Reflection from Father Steve

Next Sunday, December 18th at 2:00 PM we will celebrate our annual Advent Communal Reconciliation. This service is offered twice a year, once now before Christmas and in the spring of the year before Easter. Also each day from December 19th through Friday, December 23rd Private Confessions will be available in the Chapel.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the Sacrament of God's mercy and compassion. Sins are not the focus of our attention; our eyes are focused on God, a gracious and merciful God who seeks to draw ever closer to us.

Sometimes people talk about "their search for God". In reality the story of salvation is the story of God's relentless searching for each of us. We are "found" when we allow God to embrace us, as the father in the story of The Wayward Son embraces his son returning home. Francis Thompson reflected on this truth in his poem, The Hound of Heaven.

Pope Francis reminds us that the center of God's relationship with human beings is mercy. The Old Testament Jews recognized this in first attributing to God gracious and generous mercy (hesed). The first of the names of God in the Koran is "God the merciful". In the story of Israel's wandering in the desert God would sometimes appear to Moses in the cloud that hung over the meeting tent. The shelf on top of the Ark of the Covenant was known as "The Mercy Seat"—the place where God is found.

Pope Francis is fond of making verbs out of nouns. Take the noun "mercy" and use it as a verb "to mercy". God mercies us in Sacramental celebrations.

Invite your family and friends to join you at Communal Reconciliation as well as at Private Confession.

Communal Reconciliation

Sunday, December 18, 2:00 pm

Private Confessions in the Chapel

Monday, December 19, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Tuesday, December 20, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Wednesday, December 21, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Thursday, December 22, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Friday, December 23, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Father Steve Adrian



Jeremiah Baker, Jeff Blomgren, Jerry and Louise Breidel, Rita Eckert, Marilyn Gonsowski, Enrique Gutierrez, Paul Heitzinger, The Karas Family, Sharon Knops, Reyes Ledesma, Don Leibl, Theresa Lopez, Annamarie Moseng, Eileen Norton, Lisa Norton, Pam Perkovich, Dennis Robinette, Virgil Roethler, Marie Scanlan, Alice Schletty and Chris Stevens.

If you have a loved one you would like to add to this list, please call the parish office, provide us with your name and the name of your loved one. *We are strong as a community praying together.*

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Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ~ Isaiah 6:8

FUNERAL MINISTRY: We are looking for three to four volunteers to form a second team of Funeral Ministers. Some of the duties are: open church to meet the funeral directors when they arrive on the day of the service; offer hospitality to families and guests; be sure that everything needed for funeral service is in proper place; help the readers and gift bearers to feel comfortable in their roles; and see to it that the church is returned to normal set-up after the funeral. Training will be provided. If you are interested in serving in this important ministry, contact Mary Leibl or the parish office.

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS: To Bury the Dead is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Helping to serve luncheons, to family and friends of the deceased, after a funeral is part of that Corporal Work of Mercy. A team of volunteers gather after each funeral to serve lunch to those attending the funeral. This group of parishioners could use more volunteers to help set up, serve food, and clean up after the luncheon. Would you be able to offer some time to help in this needed ministry? If so, please contact Mary at mleibl@st-matts.org or call the parish office and leave your name and phone number.



THANK YOU: To **Mary** and **Bob** who decorated the Church and Chapel for the Advent season.

THANK YOU: To **Tom** who picked up and delivered the large wreath and greens for our Advent and Christmas season.

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org

Faith Formation News

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Students in grades 1 to 10 have class on Wednesday, December 14, in the Parish Center. Grades K to 7 start at 6:30 PM and grades 8 to 10 start at 6:45 PM. Community of Saints 8th graders registered for Confirmation with St. Matthew will join class that evening from 6:45 to 7:50 PM. This is the last class before the Christmas and New Year's break.

CONFIRMATION SACRAMENT UPDATE

Faith Formation students in grades 8 to 10 and Community of Saints 8th graders have class on Wednesday, December 14, in the Parish Center from 6:45 to 7:50 PM. Students are to attend Mass at St. Matthew the next weekend, also. After the 10:15 AM Sunday, December 18, Mass, Confirmation candidates can stay an extra hour to decorate the church for Christmas. Helping with decorating counts as a service project.

Parish Administrator's Note

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RETIRED RELIGIOUS

Our second collection today supports religious sisters, brothers and order priests. They devoted their lives to prayer, service, and works of mercy. Most ministered for little or no pay. Their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please use the special envelopes for this collection. Make checks out to the Church of St. Matthew and put "Religious Retirement Fund" in the memo line.

You may also contribute to the Religious Retirement Fund next weekend, if you prefer. Either way, thank you for your generosity.

CALLING ALL GEN-?ERS

What do we call the generation of people aged 25-45 or so? I admit I don't know.

However, if you are in this age group, know that plans are being made to provide you with more opportunities to connect here at St. Matt's. I believe food will be involved. To learn more, call Zach Czaia at 651-399-6570. You may also email the office and we'll pass your contact info on to Zach. (We do not share your info without permission.)

NEW HYMNALS

I hope that by the time you read this, our new hymnals will have arrived. The publisher (GIA) recently notified us of production delays.

So . . . we wait. Seems kind of appropriate for the Advent season, right?

If you would like to honor people in your life by dedicating a new hymnal to them, you can do that with a special nameplate we put inside the front cover. The recommended donation is \$20, which will be used to defray the cost of the hymnals. Non-nameplate hymnal donations are also gratefully accepted. Call the office for details.

Thank you for your support, and have a great week!

Phil Grant

pgrant@st-matts.org
(651) 224-9793

ST. MATTHEW WELCOMES ALL TO OUR PARISH!

New to the area, joining us for the first time or coming home again? Please contact Angela Rakow at arakow@st-matts.org to become a member. It would be great to have you join our parish family!



News and Events

ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING

All adult women are invited to the next Rosary Society meeting, which will be held **Tuesday, December 13 from 1:30 - 3:00 PM**. Come, enjoy the company of one another, refreshments, and Christmas cheer! The meeting will be held in the lower level of the Parish Center; you can enter the lower level from the parking lot. You do not need to be a member to attend meetings.

ST. MATTHEW'S MARANATHA CHOIR

Join us for music and fellowship! This choir will meet on select Wednesday nights to prepare music for some of the liturgies of the Advent and Christmas season. All voices and instrumentalist are welcome.

Rehearsals

December 14, 7:15 PM

December 21, 7:15 PM

Singing at Mass

Gaudete Sunday, December 11

Christmas Eve, December 24

Epiphany Sunday, January 8



-CHOIR PRACTICE-

GIFTED AND BELONGING MEETING AT ST. MATTHEW

Gifted and Belonging, a Catholic Fellowship for young adults with disabilities, seen and unseen, invites you to join GAB for our Annual Advent Celebration, **December 18, 6:00 - 8:00 PM**, hosted at St. Matthew's Parish, 510 Hall Avenue, Saint Paul. Bring an Advent or Christmas Craft to work on and Christmas cookies to share. For more information contact Megan at giftedandbelonging@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER

From November 25 through December 17, 2022, Boy Scouts Troop 95 and 288 will be selling Christmas trees and wreaths at Cub Foods in West St. Paul. The times are weekends, 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM and weekdays, 4:00 to 8:00 PM. 100% of the profits will support the camping adventures of the scouts of Troop 95 and 288 from South St. Paul, West St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights.



PARISH MAILING

We recently sent out our Advent mailing. If you have not received it, please notify Angela in the parish office. We want to make sure everyone's address is up to date.



Due to early bulletin submission, some items may appear in later issues.



THE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF ST. MATT'S

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on December 12, 2022 for the **Living and Deceased Rosary Society Members**.

The Sanctuary Lamp will be lit December 17 - 23, 2022 in memory of **Eleanor Bisciglia**.

If you would like to schedule a day to ring the bells or a week to light the sanctuary lamp for your special memory, person or event, please contact the parish office at (651) 224-9793 by 1:00 PM Monday - Thursday.

Parish Leadership

Rev. Steve Adrian, Sacramental Minister
sadrian@st-matts.org

Rev. Antony Skaria, Parochial Administrator
frantony@sjvssp.org

Phil Grant, Pastoral Administrator/Safe Environment
Coordinator
pgrant@st-matts.org

Angela Rakow, Administrative Assistant
arakow@st-matts.org

Accounts Payable & Receivable
accountspayable@st-matts.org

Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry
jillkilzer@st-matts.org

Mary Leibl, Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org

Linda Rivera, Funeral Coordinator
lrivera@st-matts.org

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

Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer
skowal@st-matts.org

Mario Medina Gonzalez, Maintenance

Scott Hertzog, Custodian

Jair Aguilar Vasquez, Custodian

John Del Vecchio, Parish Trustee
jdelvecchio@st-matts.org

Karen Thompson, Parish Trustee
kthompson@st-matts.org

Parish Council Members

Zach Czaia	Anthony Minus
Jerald Dosch	Janelle Rohr
Kathy Goldenstein	Ellen Schneider
Maggie Lee	Linda Sellars
Phil Grant, Ex Officio	

Finance Council Members

Alan Christensen	John Sekevitch
John Del Vecchio	Joe Stevens
Bernie Klein	Karen Thompson
Jackie Lackner	Phil Grant, Ex Officio
Becky Montgomery	

Bulletin

Announcements are due on **Monday by 10:00 AM** for the next Sunday's bulletin. Items should be sent to Angela Rakow at arakow@st-matts.org. *Items received after 10:00 AM will appear in the following week's bulletin.*

Readings for the week of December 11, 2022

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/

Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

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

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

Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Lk 7:24-30

Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-36

Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 10

4:15 PM Mass
Our Parish
+William Bregman

Sunday, December 11

10:15 AM Mass
Our Parish
+Carol Dvorak Johnson
+Phyllis Perez

Monday, December 12

8:00 AM Cancelled

Tuesday, December 13

8:00 AM Cancelled

Wednesday, December 14

8:00 AM Cancelled

Thursday, December 15

8:00 AM Cancelled

Friday, December 16

8:00 AM Cancelled

Saturday, December 17

4:15 PM Mass
Our Parish
+Sherry Simpson
+John and Mary Jane Sperl

Sunday, December 18

10:15 PM Mass
Our Parish
+Claudette Borgen
+Jose Martinez
+Joe Savard
Living and Deceased Rosary Society Members

Calendar of Events

Monday, December 12 - Friday, December 16

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Loaves & Fishes
Meals are available as to-go or dine-in.

Monday, December 12

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
7:00 PM AA Meeting

Tuesday, December 13

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
1:30 PM Rosary Society Meeting

Wednesday, December 14

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Clinic
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Parish Office Open
12:00 PM Liturgy Committee Meeting
6:30 PM Faith Formation
7:15 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, December 15

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
7:00 PM AA Meeting

Friday, December 16

Saturday, December 17

4:15 PM Mass (in-person)

Sunday, December 18

10:15 AM Mass (in-person)
10:15 AM Saturday Mass available online
2:00 PM Communal Reconciliation Service
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Gifted and Belonging Meeting

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