



Church of St. Matthew

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



Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT

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December 18, 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 & Wednesday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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

Friday Closed

Reflection from Father Steve

Next Sunday, December 25th is Christmas Day, the Feast of the Birth of the Son of God.

Christmas worship will take place on Christmas Eve, December 24th at 4:15 PM. A service of carols takes place before Mass. On Christmas Day, December 25th the Mass of Christmas is at 10:15 AM, preceded by a service of carols.

Even though some people have little church participation in their lives, the Feast and Season of Christmas is often the time when they will once again come to church.

I invite you to encourage family members and friends and co-workers to join you for Christmas worship. Sometimes people who have been absent for a while or who are not Catholic are nervous about coming to Christmas Mass; they feel people will be looking at them and judging them; they feel they will not know what to do and thus embarrass themselves.

Assure your guests that there are no expectations; people come as they are and just be themselves; they may pray as they wish and enter into the worship in a way that suits them. The name of the game is "Gracious Hospitality".

Let us be gracious and welcoming to visitors, making space for them and be thankful for them. Their presence and their prayer enrich the prayer life of the parish. They are a Christmas gift to each of us.

Father Steve Adrian



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

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.

MONEY COUNTER: We need a volunteer to help count the collection on the last two Sundays of each month. You would work on a team of four volunteers. If you are interested, please call the parish office or email Mary Leibl.



THANK YOU: To **Plaza TV and Appliance** who donated the large appliance boxes to be used to collect items for Isaac's Blessings Bags.

THANK YOU: To **Sue and Mary Helen** who have volunteered to help set up and serve at funeral luncheons.

THANK YOU: To **Donis** who faithfully waters and tends to the plants and flowers in the church.

THANK YOU: To **Katie** who weekly vacuums and dusts the Church and Chapel.

THANK YOU: To **Corrine and Josie** who graciously serve as substitute receptionists when needed.

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org

Faith Formation News

FAITH FORMATION CHRISTMAS BREAK: Students in grades 1 to 10 are on break from Faith Formation. **There is NO class on December 21, December 28, or January 4.** Classes resume on January 11. The next Confirmation class that Community of Saints 8th graders attend is on January 18. The next First Communion parent meeting and class for both Faith Formation students and Community of Saints students preparing for First Communion is on January 25.

THANK YOU, FAITH FORMATION HELPERS: The St. Matthew community appreciates the service of the volunteers in the Faith Formation program for public school students in grades K to 10: Myrna Beltran, Lisa Brandt, Donna Castillo, Valerie Gerlich, Autumn Koch, Janelle Rohr, Dave Sunday, and Kathleen Thompson. We are also grateful to Suzanne Clarke, Kathy Goldenstein, Ann Reidell, and Barb Strom for preparing Children's Liturgy packets for children ages 3 to 6 who worship with us at the weekend Masses.

Parish Administrator's Note

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE WORLD?

One of the hallmarks of our parish is our respect for people as they are. I see evidence of that on a regular basis. Visitors and new members often comment on our hospitality, and our willingness to accommodate requests for sacraments.

We also offer opportunities for change and growth. I'm reminded of John the Baptist, challenged his listeners to repent, to change, to see the world in new ways. Fr. Steve often preaches on such themes, e.g., by recalling Vatican II's teachings on respect for conscience. That was a change from pre-Vatican II approaches. It's been 60 years since the Council opened, challenging our church to see the world in new ways. It's a worthy challenge.

In our parish, I see ministries that feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and heal the sick. (We have others—and if you're interested in starting a new one, or helping out with existing ministries, great! Check the bulletin, reach out to Volunteer Coordinator Mary Leibl, or talk to me.)

In the world, I see many opportunities to visibly express God's love. Recall what Fr. Steve recently preached on: climate change. It's a moral issue. Destruction of the earth is a sin. We need to figure out new ways of living. What might we do as a parish, for ourselves, our neighborhood, and our world?

A case in point: our Facilities Committee and Parish Council volunteers have begun studying the prospect of a solar array on one or more of our roofs. Separately, there's a nonprofit working with the Archdiocese about possibilities for 5G towers on roofs throughout the Archdiocese. I don't know how these things will unfold. Stay tuned.

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Flower Fund. You make our worship more beautiful.

This year's calendar is unusual, in that Christmas Eve is a Saturday and Christmas Day is a Sunday. This reduces our workload, which is a bit of a blessing. However, we realize we miss out on one collection because of the combination of weekend and holyday. Please make a concerted effort next weekend to bring both your Christmas envelope and your Sunday (Dec. 25) envelope. We rely on the Christmas collection to carry us into the New Year. Thank you for your generosity!

NEW HYMNALS

Our new hymnals have arrived! We will start using them in the new year. That means there's still an opportunity to honor people in your life by dedicating a new hymnal. You can do that with a special nameplate we put inside the front cover. The recommended donation is \$20, which is 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

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

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

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 instrumentalists are welcome.

Rehearsals
December 21, 7:15 PM

Singing at Mass
Christmas Eve, December 24
Epiphany Sunday, January 8



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.

PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US ON DECEMBER 20



The rosary is the story of Jesus told through the New Testament. The Mysteries of the Rosary are a collection of scripture passages for us to read and reflect on as we pray.

The St. Matthew's parish community is invited to join the Rosary Society on **Tuesday, December 20 at 10:00 AM in the Parish Center lower level** as together we pray the rosary. Rosaries will be available. A visit to the learntherosary.com website can provide a helpful refresher on how to pray the rosary.

The Rosary Society continues with this community rosary once a month. Watch the bulletin for future dates, times and locations.

Please join us!

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.



THE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF ST. MATT'S

The Sanctuary Lamp will be lit December 24 - 30, 2022 in memory of **John and Mary Jane Sperl**.

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
jair@st-matts.org

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 18, 2022

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

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Next Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/

Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3])/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 17

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

Sunday, December 18

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

Monday, December 19

8:00 AM Cancelled

Tuesday, December 20

8:00 AM Cancelled

Wednesday, December 21

8:00 AM Cancelled

Thursday, December 22

8:00 AM Cancelled

Friday, December 23

8:00 AM Cancelled

Saturday, December 24

4:15 PM Mass
Our Parish
+Leo Kegler
+Kevin Kleman
+Pam, Lucille and Robert Stickler Sr.

Sunday, December 25

10:15 PM Mass
Our Parish
+William Brengman
+Dorothy and Sam Robinette
+Jim and Greg Thompson

Calendar of Events

Monday, December 19 - Friday, December 23

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

Monday, December 19

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
4:00 PM Confession
7:00 PM AA Meeting

Tuesday, December 20

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
10:00 AM Rosary Prayer
7:00 PM Confession

Wednesday, December 21

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Clinic
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Parish Office Open
4:00 PM Confession
7:15 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, December 22

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

Friday, December 23

4:00 PM Confession

Saturday, December 24

4:15 PM Mass (in-person)

Sunday, December 25

10:15 AM Mass (in-person)
10:15 AM Saturday Mass available online

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