



Church of St. Matthew

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

NATIVITY *of the Lord*



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December 25, 2022 The Nativity of the Lord

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

Years ago when people talked of simple living and ecology they championed "Small Is Beautiful". In some ways the Feast and Season of Christmas celebrates God's dwelling among us in the small and the beautiful – in a condition a busy and commercial driven world at best disregards and at worst doesn't even see.

How to celebrate the immensity and at the same time the smallness of this Divine Mystery – the mystery of Emmanuel, "God with us"?

The Christmas Event is not something to grasp intellectually – you can't get your mind around it. This mystery is to be experienced; and the experience often is reflected in the creative work of artists: music, sculpture, poetry, film, novels and dramas, etc.

Find the mystery in an expression that works for you.

When I was in my junior and senior year at the college seminary it was the practice that students go to confession if not weekly, then every two weeks. Priests from neighboring parishes and institutions came on Tuesday afternoon to serve as confessors and spiritual directors to the seminarians. I was assigned to go to confession at the confessional on the first floor of Loras Residence. The priest confessor was the Headmaster of Saint Thomas Academy, Father John Roach – later to become our Archbishop. At the beginning of Advent 1962, he urged me to read Mr. Blue, by Miles Connolly. It is the story of a simple, loving, counter-cultural man who lives graciously, gives whatever he has to others and ultimately saves the life of another by offering his own. Father Roach told me that Mr. Blue was a 'Christ-figure' and that the story is an unexpected insight into the Divine Mystery of the Christmas Feast. He assured me that he read the story every year and found it always inspiring.

I received that advice 60 years ago, the fall of 1962. For the past 60 years part of my preparation for the Christmas Season each year has been to read Mr. Blue.

I encourage you to find a creative piece of human wonder and imagination that speaks to you of the Divine Mystery.

Christmas expresses the longing hunger for God, and so it is with joy that I wish you and yours a blessed and gracious Christmas.

Father Steve Adrian



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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 all our **Faith Formation Students and Parishioners** who helped decorate the Sanctuary and the Church for the Christmas feast.

THANK YOU: To **Linda, Ann, Chris M. Chris W. Elaine and Patty** who weekly work at the reception desk answering phones and helping with any office duties that need to be done.

THANK YOU: To **all who contributed to Isaac's Blessing Bags**. In doing so you brought Christmas joy to those in need!

**OUR WISH TO ALL OUR
PARISH VOLUNTEERS**



Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org



THE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF ST. MATT'S

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on December 27, 2022 in memory of **Paul (Parky) Rodriguez**.

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 Administrator's Note

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Welcome, one and all, to St. Matt's for Christmas 2022. We're glad you're here, celebrating Christ's birth with us!

Christmas is a season that involves the giving of gifts. I've often been reminded of that lately, every time I see the many gifts this community has given to Isaac's Blessing Bags.

There's another type of gift I notice every time we gather for worship: your presence, here in church or online. It is good to be together. Thanks(?) to the pandemic, I've grown to appreciate togetherness ever more.

One more thought on gifts: I see St. Matt's as a gift to the West Side and beyond. Our community members, working together, greatly enrich this area. As we look towards 2023, let's maintain our tradition of being a visible expression of God's love.

STEWARDSHIP

Special thanks for your generosity today. Our Christmas collections are a boost to our budget, helping us to continue feeding the poor, sheltering the homeless, ministering to the sick, and more.

Please note that if you want your contributions to St. Matt's to be counted in 2022, we must receive them by next Saturday, December 31. Any contributions received on Sunday, January 1 (or later), will be recorded as 2023 contributions. Either way, thank you for your support!

NEW HYMNAL BOOKPLATES

It's still possible 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.

Merry Christmas! May there be peace in your family, in our nation, and the world.

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

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Vigil, New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31 – 4:15 pm
New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1 – 10:15 am

The Epiphany of the Lord

Vigil, Saturday, January 7, 2023 - 4:15 pm
Sunday, January 8, 2023 - 10:15 am

Faith Formation News

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

FIRST RECONCILIATION: Eleven Faith Formation students in grades 2 to 9 and fourteen Community of Saints students in grades 2 to 7 made their First Reconciliation with Father Steve Adrian on Saturday, December 10. Please pray for these students who are preparing for First Communion in 2023.



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, 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.*

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

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
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Angela Rakow, Administrative Assistant
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Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry
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Mary Leibl, Volunteer Coordinator
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Linda Rivera, Funeral Coordinator
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Janelle Rohr, Faith Formation
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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 25, 2022

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
Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
Next Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/
Lk 2:16-21

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 24

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

Sunday, December 25

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

Monday, December 26

8:00 AM Cancelled

Tuesday, December 27

8:00 AM Cancelled

Wednesday, December 28

8:00 AM Cancelled

Thursday, December 29

8:00 AM Cancelled

Friday, December 30

8:00 AM Cancelled

Saturday, December 31

4:15 PM Mass
Our Parish
+Roger Goldberg
+Carol Dvorak Johnson
+Paul (Parky) Rodriguez

Sunday, January 1

10:15 PM Mass
Our Parish

Calendar of Events

Monday, December 26 - Thursday, December 29

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Loaves & Fishes

Meals are available as to-go or dine-in.

No meal service on Friday, December 30.

Monday, December 26

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

Tuesday, December 27

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open

Wednesday, December 28

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Clinic
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Parish Office Open

Thursday, December 29

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

Friday, December 30

Saturday, December 31

4:15 PM Mass (in-person) - Solemnity of Mary,
The Holy Mother of God

Sunday, January 1

10:15 AM Mass (in-person) - Solemnity of Mary,
The Holy Mother of God

10:15 AM Saturday Mass available online

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