



Church of St. Matthew

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

second Sunday of
ADVENT



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December 4, 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

The Christmas Season begins at various times in various places. In northern Europe the Christmas Season begins on the Feast of Saint Martin, November 11th. This time of preparation for Christmas is known as "Saint Martin's Lent."

In southern Europe the Christmas Season begins on the Feast of Saint Nicholas, December 6th or the Feast of Saint Lucy, December 13th.

These times mark the time of the final harvest and the time live stock are brought to market. In the northern regions this occurred a month before the final harvest occurred in the south.

It was a time to feast. There was no refrigeration, so meat had to be preserved by smoking or salting. Fresh meat had to be consumed before it would spoil or rot – hence a time to gather and celebrate.

In Europe these are still the times for the opening of the annual Christmas Fairs.

The liturgy of the Church enters into the full preparation for the Christmas Season on December 17th – the octave before the Feast.

In my childhood home this was the time my mother would finish up the Christmas baking. The beginning of the Christmas baking took place in the early spring when the fruitcake was made. It was then wrapped in cloth soaked in brandy and stored in a cool place for the nine months before Christmas Eve, when it would make its appearance – the announcement of the Christmas Feast and Season.

What are the traditions in your home for the preparation of the Feast. Is there decorating or gift-wrapping? Do you use the Advent Wreath to mark down the weeks before Christmas? Do you spend rehearsal time in preparation for a Christmas concert?

Remember, Christmas is not only a Feast, it is most importantly a Season, and there can be much to be done to prepare to keep the Season.

Father Steve Adrian



Jeremiah Baker, Jeff Blomgren, Jerry and Louise Breidel, Rita Eckert, Marilyn Gonsowski, 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.*

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: **Tim Dalzell** who helped deliver Thanksgiving dinners to parishioners and friends!

THANK YOU: To all who contributed to Isaac's Blessing Bags. We filled the two large boxes in the back of church, making it possible for many people to receive Christmas gifts!!

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org

Faith Formation News

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

On December 7, Faith Formation students in grades K to 10 will have Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Students and parents should come to the church building at 6:45 PM. After Mass, we will have light holiday refreshments in the back of church.

First Reconciliation Service

Our First Reconciliation service is on Saturday, December 10, at 10:00 AM in church. The service is for Faith Formation and Community of Saints students who are already baptized, attended the November 16 meeting, and are registered to receive First Communion at St. Matthew next spring. Parents and other family members are welcome to go to confession with Father Steve Adrian after the children have finished. Please pray for our students as they finish their preparation for this sacrament.

Parish Administrator's Note

HAVE A BLESSED ADVENT

Happy New Liturgical Year! The season of Advent starts our church calendar anew; sorry I missed greeting you in last week's bulletin.

One reason I look forward to Advent each year is that we have the opportunity to sing special hymns of the season: Advent season, that is—with its hymns of anticipation and longing. I also like Advent's gradual build up to the full glory of Christmas, as opposed to skipping straight from Thanksgiving to Dec. 24-25.

In that spirit: if you stop by the parish office in the next couple of weeks, please admire the Advent wreaths, among other decorations. (Many thanks to Bob and Mary Bejblik for installing the large wreath in the church again this year.)

CALLING ALL GEN-?ERS

I confess I do not know exactly what the current generational group names are for people aged 25-45 or so.

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 651-491-9539. 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

We are replacing our current (2004) hymnals with new ones. I'm pleased. Not only will the new hymnal include some of the "greatest hits" of the past 18 years, it'll also have a current order of Mass that reflects liturgical language changes instituted back in 2011.

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!

If you do not receive mailings from our parish - especially during Lenten and Advent seasons - check to see if you are registered or need to update your contact information.

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

News and Events

Second Collection for Community of Saints School

Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4

Saint Paul Civic Symphony Concert

Sunday, December 4, 3:00 PM

Vigil, Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 PM

Maranatha Choir Practice

Wednesday, December 7, 7:45 PM

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday, December 8, 7:00 PM

First Reconciliation Service

Saturday, December 10, 10:00 AM

Christmas Bake Sale, Boutique and Tea

Saturday, December 10, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Sunday, December 11, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Santa Breakfast

Sunday, December 11, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Maranatha Choir Practice

Wednesday, December 14, 7:15 PM

Last Day to Send in Flower Donation

Friday, December 16

Second Collection for Neighborhood House

Saturday and Sunday, December 17 and 18

Communal Reconciliation Service

Sunday, December 18, 2:00 PM

Gifted and Belonging Meeting

Sunday, December 18, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Rosary Prayer led by Rosary Society

Tuesday, December 20, 10:00 AM



THE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF ST. MATT'S

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on December 8, 2022 for the **Living and Deceased Rosary Society Members**.

The Sanctuary Lamp will be lit December 10 - 16, 2022 in memory of **Jose Martinez** and **Phyllis Perez**.

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 4, 2022

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26

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: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

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

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 3

4:15 PM Mass
Our Parish
+Leo Kegler
+Steve Newell
+John and Mary Jane Sperl

Sunday, December 4

10:15 AM Mass
Our Parish
+Arthur Geis
+Barbara Rau
+Lester Robinson

Monday, December 5

8:00 AM Cancelled

Tuesday, December 6

8:00 AM Cancelled

Wednesday, December 7

7:00 PM Our Parish

Thursday, December 8

7:00 PM Our Parish

Friday, December 9

8:00 AM Cancelled

Saturday, December 10

4:15 PM Mass
Our Parish
+William Brengman

Sunday, December 11

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

Calendar of Events

Monday, December 5 - Friday, December 9

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

Monday, December 5

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

Tuesday, December 6

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

Wednesday, December 7

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Clinic
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Parish Office Open
7:00 PM Vigil - The Feast of the Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Choir Practice

7:45 PM

Thursday, December 8

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
7:00 PM Mass - The Feast of the Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
AA Meeting

7:00 PM

Friday, December 9

Saturday, December 10

10:00 AM First Reconciliation Service
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM Christmas Bake Sale, Boutique and Tea
4:15 PM Mass (in-person)
After Mass Confessions

Sunday, December 11

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Santa Breakfast
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Christmas Bake Sale, Boutique and Tea
10:15 AM Mass (in-person)
10:15 AM Saturday Mass available online

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