



Church of St. Matthew

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



December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Liturgy Schedule

Masses

Saturday 4:15 PM
Sunday 10:15 AM (*online Mass is on hiatus*)

Reconciliation

1st & 3rd Sunday (after Mass) 11:00 AM
2nd & 4th Saturday (after Mass) 5:00 PM

Please contact the parish office regarding
Baptism, Matrimony, First Communion,
Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick

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

Telephone (651) 224-9793
Fax (651) 222-2688
Website www.st-matts.org
Facebook www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew
YouTube www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew
Twitter twitter.com/stmattswestside

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Friday Closed

Reflection from Father Steve

December 25, 1878 as recounted in the local paper:

“Christmas! The day of all days in the calendar! The one day of the three hundred and sixty-five observed by all, religious and worldly, Christian and pagan; and so it was observed yesterday in Saint Paul. As there were people of many minds, the day was observed in variety of ways, each following the bent of one’s inclination.

When the somber toll of the bell warned that the Day of Days was about to dawn, people of all ranks and conditions hastened from their homes and out into the piercing cold air hied them to houses of prayer—they would hail the natal day of salvation, as did the angel, with a ‘Glory to God in the Highest’.

There was 5 o’clock Mass at the Cathedral and a pontifical Mass at 10, when the Right Reverend Bishop John Ireland preached the sermon—a long and able discourse lasting over an hour.

At the House of Hope Church, seven hundred and fifty wide-eyed, bright faced, ruddy-cheeked, merry-hearted children assembled for the annual Christmas party.

At the city jail, Sheriff King served turkey to all the inmates in observance of the day. It was Christmas, and even to these unfortunates it came not without certain cheering.

Many people observed their Christmas at home with visiting friends and relations, and all day from early morn to til’ dewy eve no roistering, boistering hilarity was heard belching forth from low goggeries.

Saint Paul was sober. Her people spent Christmas wisely and rationally in true enjoyment of social intercourse.”

So was reported December 25th in the Capital City.

May your celebration and observance of the opening of the Christmas Season (the Twelve Days of Christmas) be filled with joy and deep gratitude for the gift of His only begotten Son.

Fr. Steve Adrian

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!



Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

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

Knitting Club: There has been a request to form a Knitting and/or Crocheting Club. Those who enjoy doing needlework, while visiting with others, are invited to take part in this hobby. A perfect opportunity to make articles for personal use or to donate to others. Perhaps prepare articles to put into Isaac’s Blessing Bags next year. If you are interested in taking part in this activity, call the parish office at 651-224-9793. Men are welcome to join. In fact, it was a male parishioner who suggested this activity!

Library Ministry: We are in the process of organizing a parish library. This library will be in the SE corner of the main church. We already have a large number of books that are being cataloged and prepared to go onto the shelves that are being donated. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to help people select books to read, check books in and out and keep the shelves neat. This ministry would take place before and after weekend Masses. If you enjoy books and would like to help others who also like to read, please contact the parish office for more information.

OUR WISH TO ALL OUR PARISH VOLUNTEERS



Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org



Jeremiah Baker, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Sue & William Brown, Rey Del Angel, Rita Eckert, Elaine Goldberg, Carolina Gomez, The Karas Family, Carol Mike, Kendrick Morrison, Pablo Munoz, Pam Perkovich, Marie Scanlan, Doris Schillinger, Mary Lou Shields, Larry Smith, James Stanger, Sr., 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.*

Parish Administrator's Note

Merry Christmas!

Welcome, one and all, to St. Matt's for the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas 2023. We're glad you're here, celebrating Christ's birth with us!

Christmas is a season that features gift giving. I've been reminded of that a lot lately. For example, I saw the many gifts this community gave to Isaac's Blessing Bags. I heard this was the most generous year yet for that project. That's great!

I witness another gift when we gather for worship: your presence, here in church. It is good to be together in person.

One more thought: I believe St. Matt's is a gift to the West Side and beyond. Our community members, working together, greatly enrich this area. I'm thinking especially of our Community Conversations, which we began in 2023. Those gatherings have been helpful in discerning needs, resources and opportunities on the West Side.

As we look towards 2024, let's maintain our tradition of being a visible expression of God's love.

Stewardship

Special thanks for your generosity at Christmastime. 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 2023, we must receive them by next Sunday, December 31. Any contributions received on Monday, January 1 (or later), will be recorded as 2024 contributions. Either way, thank you for your support!

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.

THE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF ST. MATTHEW



The Sanctuary Lamp will be lit December 23 - 29, 2023 in memory of **Parky Rodriguez**.

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on December 24, 2023 in memory of **Brian Eldridge**.

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on December 25, 2023 in memory of **Bill Brengman**.

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.

Faith Formation News

Faith Formation Facts: There is NO CLASS for Faith Formation students in grades K to 10 on December 27.

Here are details about Faith Formation and sacrament preparation at St. Matthew this school year:

41 students who attend public schools are in the Faith Formation program (30 families):

- 17 of those public school students are preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation.
- 16 public school students are preparing for the sacrament of First Communion.
- Students not preparing for sacraments attend class weekly to learn more about the faith.
- The grade with the most students is 8th grade (9 students) and the next grade with many students is 4th grade (8 students).

21 Community of Saints students (18 families) are registered with St. Matthew for sacraments:

- 9 Catholic school students in 8th grade are preparing for Confirmation.
- 12 Catholic school students in grades 2 and above are preparing for First Communion.
- Community of Saints students attend class at St. Matthew a few times during the school year as part of their preparation for sacraments.

Thanks to the parents, catechists, helpers, St. Matthew staff, and St. Matthew organizations who support the program in many ways during the school year.

Janelle Rohr



The parish office is closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26, 2023.

Parish Leadership

Rev. Steve Adrian, Sacramental Minister

Rev. Antony Skaria, Parochial Administrator

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

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

Cristina Czaia, Director of Music and Liturgy
cczaia@st-matts.org

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

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

Janelle Rohr, Faith Formation
janelle@st-matts.org

Accounts Payable & Receivable
accountspayable@st-matts.org

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

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Jerald Dosch | Tara Perron |
| Kathy Goldenstein | Ellen Schneider |
| Maggie Lee | Katie Shetka |
| Anthony Minus | Phil Grant, Ex Officio |

Finance Council Members

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Alan Christensen | Becky Montgomery |
| John Del Vecchio | Tony Postiglione |
| Richard Dunn | Karen Thompson |
| Jackie Lackner | Phil Grant, Ex Officio |

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 24, 2023

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/
Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/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/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 23

4:15 PM Mass
+Roger Goldberg
+Carol Dvorak Johnson

Sunday, December 24

10:15 AM Mass
+Deceased Members of Our Parish
4:15 PM Christmas Vigil Mass
+Arthur Geis
+Leo Kegler
+Kevin Kleman

Monday, December 25

10:15 AM Mass
+Bill Brengman

Tuesday, December 26

8:00 AM Cancelled

Wednesday, December 27

8:00 AM Cancelled

Thursday, December 28

8:00 AM Cancelled

Friday, December 29

8:00 AM Cancelled

Saturday, December 30

4:15 PM Mass
+Pam, Lucille, and Robert Stickler, Sr.
+Sherry Simpson

Sunday, December 31

Mass
+Bennett Alward
+Parky Rodriguez

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 26 - Friday, December 29

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

Meal service site will be closed on Christmas Day, Monday, December 25.

Monday, December 25

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed
10:15 AM Mass
7:00 PM AA Meeting

Tuesday, December 26

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

Wednesday, December 27

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open

Thursday, December 28

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:00 PM Grief Support Group
7:00 PM AA Meeting

Friday, December 29

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

Saturday, December 30

4:15 PM Mass

Sunday, December 31

10:15 AM Mass

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