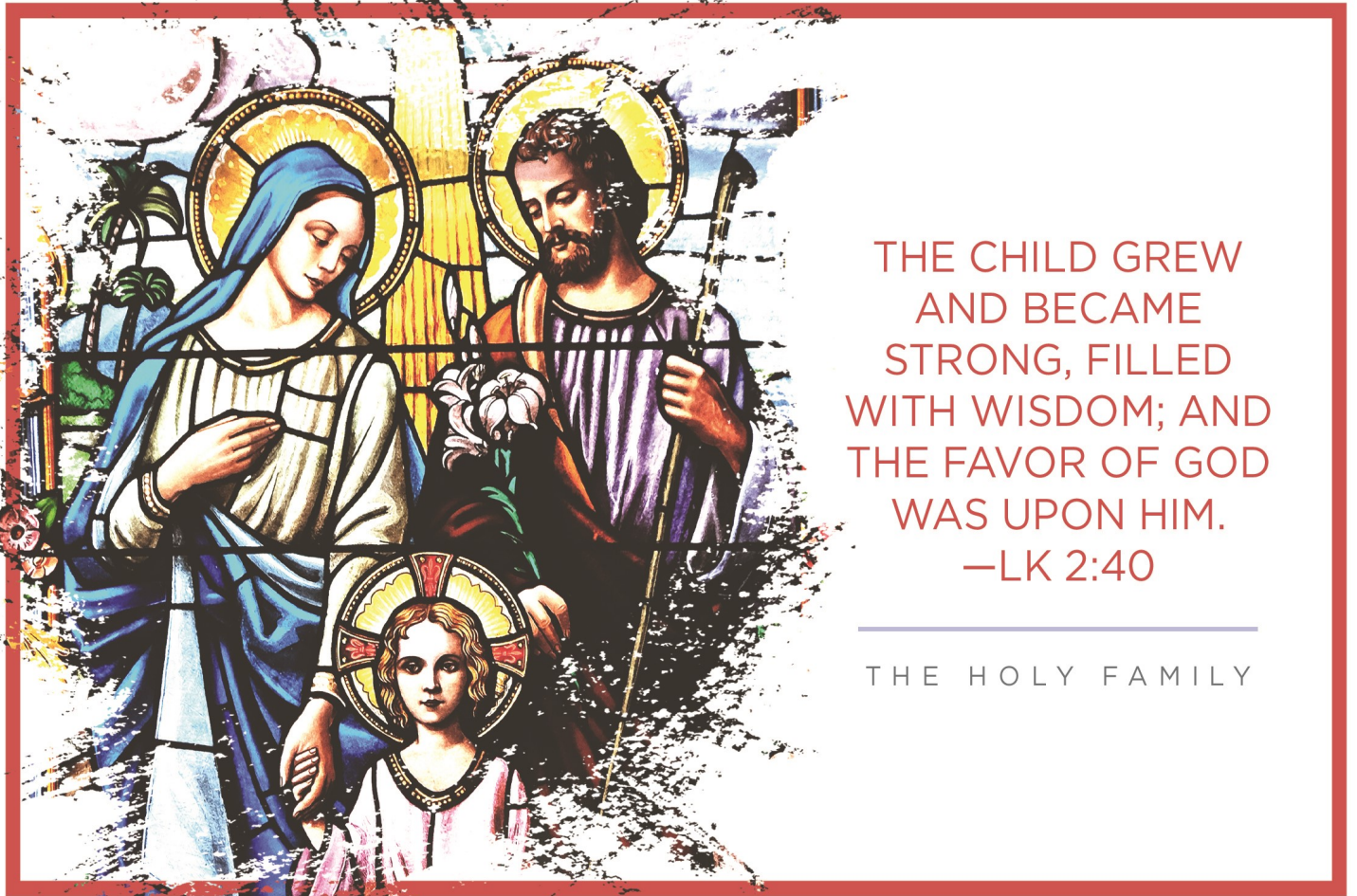




Church of St. Matthew

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



THE CHILD GREW AND BECAME STRONG, FILLED WITH WISDOM; AND THE FAVOR OF GOD WAS UPON HIM.
—LK 2:40

THE HOLY FAMILY

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

December 31, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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

On this New Year I was reminded it is nearly impossible to remember that, from Moscow to Jerusalem, there was once a time of promise.

Between 1989 and 1995, the following happened: the fall of the Berlin Wall and the liberation of Eastern and Central Europe; the collapse of Soviet Communism and the seeming end of the Cold War; the brief appearance of a pro-democracy movement in Beijing and other Chinese cities; the end of South African apartheid; and the signing of the Oslo Accords by the Israeli leadership and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In many nations people, who had endured so much oppression and tragedy, began to push the world in a direction of decency, democracy and compromise.

Much of this statement is oversimplified, yet the promise was real and it ran deep.

Now we live in ominous times, with Putin's Russia laying waste to whole cities and towns in Ukraine, and the death count continuing to mount in the Middle East. Will the Middle East conflict expand to Lebanon, Syria and Iran? Only a fool does not recognize difficult days to come.

Yet, you and I, people of faith, know that God never promised life would be easy. He did promise to stand with us, to not leave us orphaned and abandoned. The Christmas Season celebrates that God chose to identify with us in every respect, including the challenges of dark days. In every day and time His name is Emmanuel – God with Us.

As 2024 dawns, we have a vision of a new heaven and a new earth. We know that from death comes new life, out of darkness the light will shine and this tired and sick world will be renewed by the grace of God and the just work of human beings.

May 2024 be a year of new beginnings for each of us and for our world.

Fr. Steve Adrian



The Sounds and Sights of St. Matthew

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on January 1, 2024 for **Living and Deceased Rosary Society Members**.

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.

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!

Thank You: To **Fr. Steve, Phil, Angela, Cristina, All Liturgical Ministers, Musicians, Cantors, Vocalists, Sacristans, Ushers, Greeters, Maintenance Staff, Decorators**, and **All** who attended the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Your presence and devotion brought the Christmas spirit to all who were present.

Thank You: To the **Ahern Family** - parishioners and owners of Evergreen Industries - who donated the large wreaths and greenery for the Christmas decoration.



Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org



REMEMBER
in your prayers

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, Helen Smith, 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

Happy New Year! (And Continued Christmas Wishes)

I hope your Christmas season has been splendid, with many opportunities for time with loved ones. I know I've enjoyed worshipping at St. Matt's, as well as spending time with friends and family.

Special thanks to music director Cristina Czaia, choir members, and all the musicians who've enhanced our worship during this season. I've heard many compliments!

My hope for 2024 is that all of us are a light for others. Fr. Steve's preaching and recent Gospels call us to be that light. Ever since I arrived here in 2021, I've repeatedly seen St. Matt's as a light to the West Side and beyond. I expect to see more such light in the new year. Let's continue to work together and support each other, further strengthening our parish and our community.

Stewardship, Volunteering

Thank you for your support throughout 2023. Your financial generosity makes it possible for our parish to sustain our ministries and support our ministry partners.

Please note that if you want your contributions to St. Matt's to be counted in 2023, we must receive them by 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!

As for volunteering, let's rejoice and give thanks for the amazing, high level of volunteer activity in our St. Matt's community. Not only do volunteers also make possible our ministries, they also develop relationships that enhance our lives together.

Have a great week!

Phil Grant
pgrant@st-matts.org
651-224-9793



The parish office is closed on Monday, January 1, 2024.

Faith Formation News

Faith Formation Break

There is NO CLASS for Faith Formation students in grades K to 10 on January 3. Classes resume on January 10 in the Parish Center.

First Communion Preparation

Students preparing for the sacrament of First Communion plus their parents/guardians should plan to attend a class and meeting on January 17 at 6:30 PM in the St. Matthew Church building. This includes families registered in the Faith Formation program and families whose children attend Community of Saints who have signed up for First Communion with St. Matthew. We will finish by 7:45 PM. Parents who have not yet submitted proof of baptism for their student may do so that evening. Questions? Email janelle@st-matts.org.

News and Events

Mass for **Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God** will be on Monday, January 1, 2024 at 10:15 AM.

Coffee Sunday

The next Coffee Sunday will be on **January 14 after the 10:15 AM Mass**. Come down to the Social Hall after Mass and visit with your fellow parishioners. Coffee Sunday is on the second Sunday of each month. We hope to see you there!



St. Matthew Youth Group

The next youth group meeting will be on **Sunday January 21, 2024 from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**. Please join us for lunch, games and crafts! All youth welcome, younger children (under 10) should be accompanied by an adult. Older children can attend on their own.

Community of Saints School Collection

Next weekend is our monthly second collection in support of Community of Saints Catholic School. Thank you for your generous support!

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!



Fr. Adrian, Fr. Skaria, Phil Grant, St. Matthew trustees, council members, staff and volunteers wish everyone a blessed new year.

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 31, 2023

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

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 30

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

Sunday, December 31

10:15 AM Mass
+Bennett Alward
+Parky Rodriguez

Monday, January 1

10:15 AM Mass

Tuesday, January 2

8:00 AM Cancelled

Wednesday, January 3

8:00 AM Cancelled

Thursday, January 4

8:00 AM Cancelled

Friday, January 5

8:00 AM Cancelled

Saturday, January 6

4:15 PM Mass
+Bernice Grossman
+Gilbert Hermann
+Mary Ann Roscoe

Sunday, January 7

Mass
+Carol Dvorak Johnson
+Dan D. Roscoe
+Sam S. Roscoe
+Harry Selken

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, January 2 - Friday, January 5

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

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

****Meal service site will be closed on New Year's Day, Monday, January 1, 2024.***

Monday, January 1

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed
10:15 AM Mass- Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM AA Meeting

Tuesday, January 2

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
12:00 PM Liturgy Committee Meeting
6:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 3

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
7:00 PM Faith Formation Teacher Meeting
7:30 PM Men's Club Board Meeting

Thursday, January 4

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

Friday, January 5

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

Saturday, January 6

4:15 PM Mass

Sunday, January 7

10:15 AM Mass

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