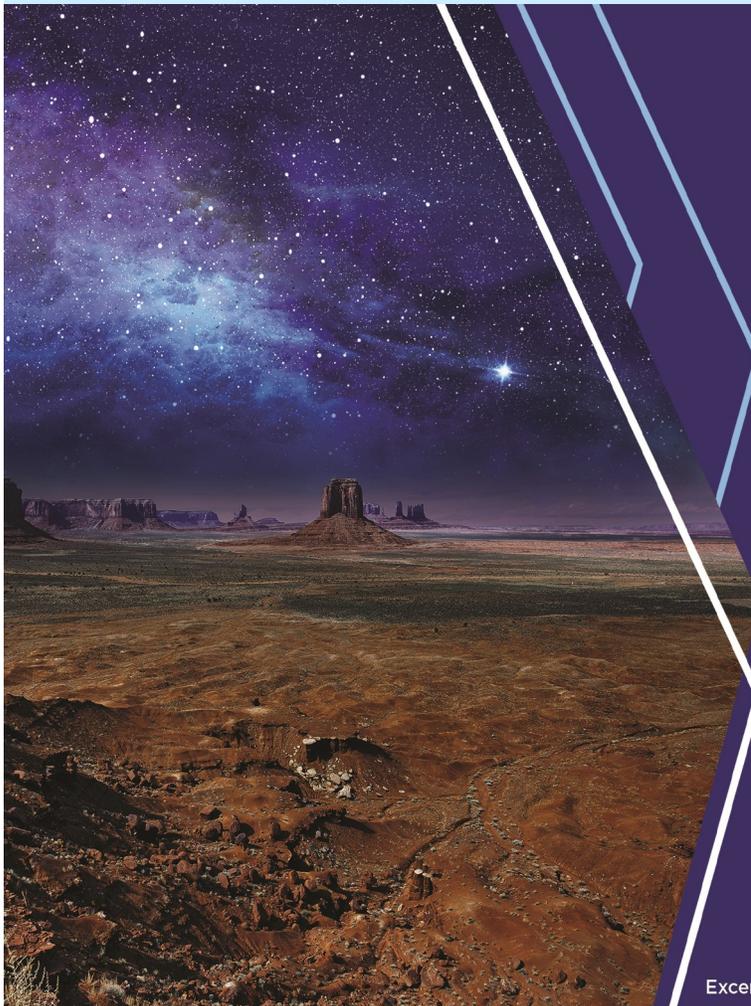




Church of St. Matthew

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



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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January 7, 2024 **The Epiphany of the Lord**

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

Pope Francis tells us that the way the Church works must change from a top-down model to a bottom up model. The first model is the pyramid model—the Pope at the top, next the bishops of the Church, then the pastors and at the bottom of the pyramid is everyone else. Those at the top are the “teachers” and those at the bottom are “learners”. The assumption is that those at the top have a special type of holiness.

Pope Francis says that the pyramid must be turned the other way around. The base now becomes the top; and the top represents the whole People of God—clergy and laity, all the baptized. Some of the baptized are called upon to provide particular services for the People of God, they are to promote the good order of the Church community. They are the pastors, bishops and pope. They are part of the People of God, the Community of Faith and they have a vocation of service to the Body of Christ.

There is no special holiness. The Vatican Council taught that there is “a universal call to holiness.” All God’s people are called into union with God and with each other. All God’s people have received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and form the Body of Christ.

Pope Francis tells us that this renewed image of the Church demands that we respect each other, be willing to listen to each other—really listen—willing to be open to whatever it is that the Holy Spirit leads us to undertake in a new age.

Soon the Saint Matthew Community will gather in groups to reflect on the mission of our parish community and how it is that we can live that mission more effectively in the 21st century.

The last time we did this was forty four years ago. It is time to do it again. The Church is always called to reformation and renewal. We are called to reflect upon who we are.

The unexamined life is the life not worth living.

Fr. Steve Adrian



The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on January 7, 2024 in memory of **Harry Selken**.

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

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED DURING THE 2023 CHRISTMAS SEASON

1. **Fr. Steve Adrian** who celebrated Mass, heard confessions and presided over the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Once again, his homilies brought peace and joy to the those attending.
2. **Cristina Czaia**, our Director of Music and Liturgy, who planned meaningful liturgies and music for all attending the Christmas services.
3. **Liturgy Committee** who planned the décor and helped to decorate the church for the feast.
4. **Mary and Bob Bejblik** who change the banners.
5. **Bob Bejblik** and **Tom Kegler** who climb up above the ceiling and crawl across to hang the Advent wreath.
6. Members of the **Men’s Club** who hung the greenery outside the church and put up the Nativity scene in the yard across from the church. A yearly tradition!
7. To the **Ahern family** who donated all of the wreaths and greenery for the church, inside and outside. These dedicated parishioners donate these items to St. Matthew church annually!
8. **Faith Formation Confirmation students** who helped to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve morning after the 10:15 am Mass.
9. Members of our **St. Matthew Youth Group** who helped pack items for Isaac’s Blessing Bags!
10. **Donis** who kept the flowers looking beautiful and to **Jair** and **Katie** who cleaned the church and chapel.
11. 120+ people who attended the Communal Penance Service.
12. To all our parishioners and friends who attended Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The church was full for both Masses. It is always nice when we have to put out extra chairs!

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org

Parish Administrator's Note

Togetherhness

It's central to our faith to worship together, so I was delighted to see so many people at Masses during the Christmas season! I like the feeling of solidarity with fellow believers.

And wasn't our church building especially beautiful during the past few weeks? Many thanks to all those who decorated the church for the season: **Mary and Bob Bejblik, Linda Sellars, Mary Leibl**, and volunteers from our parish **Faith Formation** program, coordinated by **Janelle Rohr** and **Dave Sunday**. (It was quite the swift turnaround from the 4th Sunday of Advent to Christmas Eve, all in a few hours!)

Looking back at 2023

- Pope Francis continues to promote *synodality*, the church's term for a process that emphasizes **listening to everyone** in our Roman Catholic church. It reflects the thinking of the Second Vatican Council, which called for increased engagement with and by the laity.
- Archbishop Hebda continues to ask all parishes to use synodal processes. That means asking questions, listening, and responding to local challenges. As an example, we began a series of West Side Community Conversations in 2023, listening to our neighbors.
- We're a volunteer parish, led almost entirely by lay people. We're fortunate at St. Matt's to have many volunteers engaged in multiple ministries, councils and projects. Our new youth group is a great example of lay leadership in ministry. Children's Liturgy of the Word is flourishing. Let us pray that even more volunteers come forward this year. (Maybe you're one of them? Is the Spirit tugging at your heart in some way?)
- It's far easier to see in hindsight what the Holy Spirit is doing among us. Still, I feel like there's an emerging pattern, a pattern that emphasizes a form of church with extensive lay leadership. That's an opportunity. It's also a challenge.

Looking ahead to 2024

Our Parish Council has been thinking strategically for a few months, and that process will continue in 2024. I expect a lot of listening to be part of that effort, as we clarify what makes St. Matt's the great parish it is.

Have a great week!

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



See the bulletin insert for more news and events happening at the Church of Saint Matthew.



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.*

Faith Formation News

Faith Formation January Classes: Faith Formation students in grades K to 10 have class on January 10 in the Parish Center. Grades K to 5 start at 6:30 PM and grades 6 to 10+ start at 6:45 PM. Note that on January 17, only students preparing for First Communion have class, and we meet in the church building that evening. On January 24, all students have class, and Community of Saints 8th graders preparing for Confirmation with St. Matthew have class, too.

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

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.

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

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 January 7, 2024

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

Monday: Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 6

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

Sunday, January 7

10:15 AM Mass
+Carol Dvorak Johnson
+Dan D. Roscoe
+Sam S. Roscoe
+Harry Selken

Monday, January 8

8:00 AM Cancelled

Tuesday, January 9

8:00 AM Cancelled

Wednesday, January 10

8:00 AM Cancelled

Thursday, January 11

8:00 AM Cancelled

Friday, January 12

8:00 AM Cancelled

Saturday, January 13

4:15 PM Mass
+Bill Brengman
+John and Judy Kelly
+Dorinda Martineau
+Lisa Norton
+Deceased Rosary Society Member

Sunday, January 14

10:15 AM Mass
+Virginia Dennison
+David Hill

Calendar of Events

Monday, January 8 - Friday, January 12

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

Monday, January 8

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM AA Meeting

Tuesday, January 9

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:30 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting

Wednesday, January 10

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:30 PM Faith Formation
8:00 PM Men's Club Meeting

Thursday, January 11

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

Friday, January 12

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed
9:00 AM - Noon St. Mary's Diabetes Prevention Meeting

Saturday, January 13

4:15 PM Mass
5:00 PM Confessions (after Mass)

Sunday, January 14

10:15 AM Mass
After Mass Coffee Sunday

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