

Church of St. Matthew

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF

Lent

©LPi

February 18, 2024
First Sunday of Lent

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

Since I was in third grade, the Season of Lent has played a part in my life. This annual observance was marked by special meals, special devotions, practices of mortification and the expectation of Easter.

Prior to Ash Wednesday, my father would drive out to Rice Street to the Pioneer Sausage Company and there he would buy a foot long hard salami. This salami was hung from the light fixture in the kitchen and served as an olfactory announcement that Lent was a time to abstain. At noon on Holy Saturday (in those days Lent ended at noon on Holy Saturday), he would climb on a kitchen chair with the butcher knife in his hand and with great drama and solemnity, he would cut the salami free. We would break the Lenten fast with salami sandwiches.

Fridays were meatless, and if truth be known, some of the most creative suppers were prepared.

Television watching was rationed and candy was forbidden until the Easter basket appeared.

In the 1950's, Lent meant "giving up" something. It was only in my college years that I learned that Lent was a time for doing something; doing the works of mercy — spiritual and corporal. It was also a time to enrich one's spirit; to read literature and listen to music that would lift one's mind and heart.

In his diary, Pope John XXIII writes that for the Season of Lent in 1960, his plan was to listen to the nine symphonies of Beethoven.

Lent is a time of renewal for the whole person. It is a time to cleanse whatever it is that keeps me from a strong life of discipleship; it also is a time to undertake works of charity as well as a time to learn new things.

Lent is the springtime of the soul.

Fr. Steve Adrian



Jeremiah Baker, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Sue & William Brown, Rita Eckert, Andrew McFarland, Diane McFarland, Elaine Goldberg, The Karas Family, Carol Mike, Marie Scanlan, Doris Schillinger, Mary Lou Shields, 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.*

Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

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

Money Counters: We are looking for volunteers to help count the weekly collection twice a month. You would work with a team of 3 or 4 other volunteers. If you feel you have the talent or experience to help with this volunteer opportunity, please call the parish office, 651-224-9793.

Thank You: To **Kathy** and **Al** who weekly take care of the vigil lights. They take out the old candles, clean the glass holder and put in new candles. They do this before and after each weekend Mass! Their dedication to this ministry makes it possible for there to be a multitude of vigil candles available before each Mass.

Thank You: To **Josie, Kathleen, Suzanne** and **Scott** who monthly volunteer to do blood pressure checks after the weekend Masses. This is a great service to many in our parish. We thank them for sharing their medical knowledge to keep our parishioners healthy!

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org



The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

The Sanctuary Lamp will be lit February 17-23, 2024 in memory of **Don Leibl, Tony Joseph, Mark Meissinger and Rich Neveu.**

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on Friday, February 23, 2024 in memory of **George Sticha** on his 91st birthday.

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.

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 (arakow@st-matts.org) to become a member.

If you do not receive mailings from our parish, especially during Lenten and Advent seasons, please consider registering with our parish. You can download the registration form from our website or contact Angela at the parish office.



Parish Administrator's Note

Politics

OK, what's your first reaction when you see the word, "Politics"? What comes to mind?

I suspect many people have a negative reaction. After all, there's a lot of negativity in today's politics.

And yet—our faith calls us to do things that involve, well, politics. Our democratic system presumes that citizens vote, hold office, and make decisions.

I find it remarkable that so much of current political discourse holds that it's OK to bully others. Or that it's a good thing to ignore the poor. I see nothing in the Bible that supports such views.

To the contrary, as Fr. Steve has remarked: the Gospel pretty much boils down to, "Care for the poor, or go to hell."

I'm glad that here at St. Matt's, we are not ignoring the poor. We practice the Corporal Works of Mercy.

As for formal political activity, I urge you to get involved, to the extent you can. As a parish, we're not going to recommend particular candidates. However, we can and do promote ideas. We can and do convene discussions. Those are political activities needed in healthy democracies.

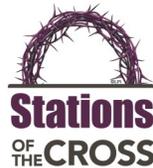
We also serve as a polling place. Note that the primary election is March 5.

I like what Pope Francis said in 2021. Democracy "demands hard work and patience. It is complex, whereas authoritarianism is peremptory and populism's easy answers appear attractive."

P.S. St. Paul City Council member Rebecca Noecker recently invited me to attend a political event coming up on February 25th. It's a kickoff for an effort to raise funds (through the tax system) to support early learning and care. I want to learn more, so I'm going to attend the event. If you'd like to attend, details are in the insert.

Have a great week!

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



Mondays during Lent – 7:00 pm

Tuesdays during Lent – 12:30 pm

Faith Formation News

Faith Formation This Week: On Wednesday, February 21, all Faith Formation students have class in the Parish Center. Grades K to 5 start at 6:30 PM and grades 6 to 10+ start at 6:45 PM. Community of Saints 8th graders preparing for Confirmation with the Church of St. Matthew have class that evening, too, from 6:45 to 7:50 PM. Parents, note that next week, February 28, we will have a Reconciliation service in church followed by individual confessions with Father Adrian. After the students have finished, parents are welcome to go to confession with Father.

News and Events

Blood Pressure Checks

Blood pressure checks will be available after Mass this weekend, **February 17 and 18**.



Neighborhood House Collection

This weekend is the monthly Neighborhood House collection. There will be a basket by the main entrance for you to place your non-perishable or monetary donation. On behalf of Neighborhood House and the people it serves, thank you for your generosity!



St. Matthew's 35th Annual Fish Fry

The 35th annual dine-in with table service or curbside-to-go Lenten Fish Fry is **all Fridays during Lent, through March 29 from 4:30 to 7:30 PM** in the Social Hall. See the insert for more information.

Gifted and Belonging

Gifted and Belonging (GAB), a Catholic social club for young adults with disabilities seen and unseen, is having their next meeting on **February 25, 6:00 - 8:00 PM** at the Church of St. Matthew Social Hall. This month's theme is Reflections for Lent.

GAB welcomes all young adults to get together to share a time of prayer and reflection followed by games and social activities. For more information, contact Megan at giftedandbelonging@gmail.com.

Ham Bingo



St. Matthew's Men's Club is hosting its annual Ham Bingo featuring twelve games for hams and three games for cash on **Saturday, March 9**. Doors open at 5:00 PM and games start at 5:30 PM. Food, beer, wine and pop available for purchase. Expected completion time is between 8:30 to 9:00 PM.



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 February 18, 2024

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)/1 Pt 3:18-22/
Mk 1:12-15

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 17

4:15 PM Mass
+Don Leibl
+Dolores Robinson

Sunday, February 18

10:15 AM Mass
+Bennett Alward
+Jackie Elmquist
+Kathy Horst
+John & Judy Kelly

Monday, February 19

8:00 AM Cancelled

Tuesday, February 20

8:00 AM Cancelled

Wednesday, February 21

8:00 AM Cancelled

Thursday, February 22

8:00 AM Cancelled

Friday, February 23

8:00 AM Cancelled

Saturday, February 24

4:15 PM Mass
+Arthur Geis
+Leona Jenniges

Sunday, February 25

10:15 AM Mass
+Carol Dvorak Johnson
+Mary Ann Roscoe

Calendar of Events

Monday, February 19 - Thursday, February 22

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

No Loaves and Fishes on Fridays during Lent

Monday, February 19

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Tuesday, February 20

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
12:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, February 21

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:30 PM Faith Formation
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, February 22

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
4:30 PM Finance Council Meeting
6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting
6:30 PM Future Planning Task Force Meeting
7:00 PM AA Meeting

Friday, February 23

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed
4:30 PM - 7:30 PM Fish Fry

Saturday, February 24

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

Sunday, February 25

10:15 AM Mass
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Gifted and Belonging Meeting

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