

Reflection from Father Steve

(I intended this to be my homily at the beginning of Lent. This did not happen, for obvious reasons. I offer the outline of that homily now.)

The Gospel according to Mark is the oldest, and used as reference by both Matthew and Luke. Mark's Gospel story is the story of Jesus seeking to enlighten his followers about his identity and the destiny that is his. No one understands. The only character in the Gospel who witnesses to Jesus' divinity is the Centurion at the foot of the cross: "Truly, this man was the Son of God."

The oldest form of Mark's Gospel ends in Chapter 16:1 - 8. Later on, a second epilogue for the Gospel was created.

Mark's Gospel ends with all fleeing and hiding; they see nothing but loss and destruction.

On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalena and Mary the mother of James and Salome come to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. They are told by an angelic figure:

'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.'

Mark then tells us:

⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Mark ends his Gospel with a cliffhanger. The women run away, terrified and they "Say nothing to anyone." The reader is meant to finish the story.

Jesus bid disciples to come to Galilee, to where it all started; he calls them to begin again; he invites them to follow him.

The second epilogue, like the first, ends with a challenge in the form of an unresolved question. "Will we flee or will we follow?" This question cannot be resolved except in the life of the disciple. Whether or not they actually "see" Jesus again depends on whether or not the disciples renew commitment to the journey. It is at this point that we recall the mysterious words of 9:10:

"But they held fast to his word, but discussed among themselves 'What is the meaning of resurrection from the dead?'"

We find ourselves in the same position. We do not

Reflection from Father Steve (continued)

entirely understand what "resurrection" means, but if we have understood the story, we should be "holding fast" to what we do know; that Jesus still goes before us, calling us to the way of the cross.

And that is the hardest ending of all; not tragedy, not victory, but an unending challenge to follow anew.

(I am indebted to the writings of Ched Myers who opened my eyes to this dimension of Mark's Gospel.)

Father Steve Adrian

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 the **Scouts** and to the **students from Community of Saints Regional Catholic School** who helped take orders and deliver meals to the tables and to the outside drive-up line during the annual Fish Fry. To all who helped with afternoon prep work, worked in the kitchen, at the bar and taking payments at the door. A huge THANK YOU to all who came to our Fish Fry!

Thank You: To **Anthony** and **Tim** who led the Monday evening Stations of the Cross and to **Mary** and **Kathy** who led the Tuesday afternoon Stations of the Cross. Thank you to all who attended the two services during Lent.

**WE WISH ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS
A BLESSED EASTER SEASON!**

HE IS RISEN!

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



The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on March 31, 2024 in memory of **Brian Eldridge**.

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.

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

Parish Administrator's Note

Happy Easter!

Alleluia! He is risen! I wish you, your family and your friends a joyful Easter Day and Easter season. It's time to celebrate our Risen Lord!

Many thanks to our staff and volunteers for all they did to plan, prepare and do the many, complicated liturgies of Holy Week and Triduum. Thanks as well to everyone who worshiped with us during these days. We're glad you're here!

Acts of the Apostles and Us

Now that we're in the Easter season, we're going to hear significant readings from the *Acts of the Apostles*.

My framework for understanding my Catholic religion is the through line from *Acts* to today, with special reference to Vatican II. There's a consistent emphasis on "the church" as **everyone**, not just the hierarchy. Everyone's important. The Holy Spirit works through everyone. We should listen to everyone.

Accordingly, we're all called to engage with our faith community. We often say we're a volunteer parish, and I think that's a great thing. Our many volunteers minister in many ways.

At the same time, volunteerism challenges the strong emphasis on consumerism in American society. By definition, volunteers aren't paid. They're contributing, not consuming.

I don't believe the Bible or Vatican II have much to say about modern consumerism. They do have a lot to say about caring for the poor, about ministry, and about listening to everyone. That's why we also say we're a Vatican II parish.

Continued thanks to Fr. Thomas Kommers for his continued ministry to us, as he substitutes for Fr. Steve.

Have a great week!

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

News and Events



See the insert for news and events happening at the Church of St. Matthew.

St. Matthew Welcomes All to Our Parish!

New to the area, joining us for the first time or coming home again? Please consider registering with our parish. You can download the registration form from our website or contact Angela at the parish office.



Faith Formation News

Faith Formation Classes Resume: Faith Formation students in grades K to 10 have class in the St. Matthew Parish Center this Wednesday evening, **April 3**. Grades K to 5 have class from 6:30 to 7:45 PM, and grades 6 to 10+ have class from 6:45 to 7:50 PM. First Communion parents, please note **April 24** on your calendar, the evening when First Communion students and at least one parent come to St. Matthew for First Communion practice from 6:30 to 7:45 PM in church.

Confirmation Blessing Mass and Meeting: On **Sunday, April 7**, Confirmation candidates in the Faith Formation program and Community of Saints 8th graders preparing for Confirmation with St. Matthew are invited to church. Candidates, their sponsors, parents, and family members should come to St. Matthew at 10:00 AM for Mass and plan to stay after Mass for a short meeting; we will be finished before noon. This is required to be ready for the Confirmation Mass at the Cathedral, which is on **April 14**. Questions? Email janelle@st-matts.org.

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



Fr. Stephen Adrian, Jeremiah Baker, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Sue & William Brown, Holly Casillas, Sue Derringer, Elaine Goldberg, Carolina Gomez, Sean Kane, Michael Karas, The Karas Family, Floro Luque, Diane McFarland, Kendrick Morrison, Pablo Munoz, Roberta Otte, Marie Scanlan, Doris Schillinger, Mary Lou Shields, James Stanger, Sr., Patricia Weisman, and Thomas & Kasi Wright.

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 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 March 31, 2024

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24)/ Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/ Mk 16:9-15

Next Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-3

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 30

4:15 PM Mass
+Leo Kegler
+Kevin Kleman

Sunday, March 31

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

Monday, April 1

8:00 AM Cancelled

Tuesday, April 2

8:00 AM Cancelled

Wednesday, April 3

8:00 AM Cancelled

Thursday, April 4

8:00 AM Cancelled

Friday, April 5

8:00 AM Cancelled

Saturday, April 6

4:15 PM Mass
+Kathy Blair
+Lisa Norton

Sunday, April 7

10:15 AM Mass
+Bennett Alward
+Leona Jenniges

Calendar of Events

Monday, April 1 - Friday, April 5

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

Monday, April 1

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

Tuesday, April 2

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Future Planning Task Force Meeting
5:30 PM Facilities Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 3

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 Men's Club Board Meeting

Thursday, April 4

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

Friday, April 5

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

Saturday, April 6

4:15 PM Mass

Sunday, April 7

10:15 AM Mass
After Mass Confessions

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS - Advertisers on the back of this bulletin pay for this weekly bulletin. Thank them by using their services and products.