



Church of St. Matthew

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



LAST OF ALL AND THE SERVANT OF ALL.

— MARK 9:35 —

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

©LPI

September 22, 2024 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgy Schedule

Masses

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

Reconciliation

- Saturdays 3:00 - 3:30 PM
- Sundays after Mass upon request or by appointment, by calling the parish office

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

This weekend is the annual solemn celebration of Saint Matthew, our patron.

Matthew had a dirty job; he was a tax collector.

Jewish tax collectors collected taxes on behalf of the Roman rulers of first-century Judea. They were objects of scorn and even hatred among their own communities, since they worked on behalf of the occupying power and often earned their living by collecting more than the state's due.

Jesus saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office, and he said to him: Follow me. Jesus saw Matthew, not merely in the usual sense, but more significantly with his merciful understanding of human beings.

He saw the tax collector and, because he saw him through the eyes of mercy and chose him, he said to him: *Follow me.* This following meant imitating the pattern of his life – not just walking after him. St. John tells us: *Whoever says he abides in Christ ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*

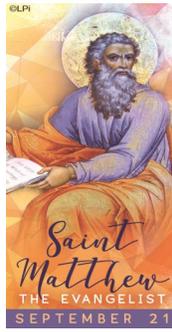
Jesus saw something in Matthew that no one else saw; something that Matthew himself did not perceive. Today, many people do not see themselves welcomed to the Church; they feel they are not the “right type”. They are scorned and are deeply hurt by rejection—LGBTQ+ persons, some immigrants, divorced persons, etc.

Matthew becomes a witness to the Mercy of God. If you teach nothing else, help people understand that they too are looked upon by Jesus with eyes of mercy and compassion and are invited to join him.

Pope Benedict said in 2006 that “in the figure of Matthew, the Gospels present to us a true and proper paradox: those who seem to be the farthest from holiness can even become a model of the acceptance of God's mercy and offer a glimpse of its marvelous effects in their lives.”

Isn't it a delight to remember that our patron saint was not perfect, and was not excluded from intimacy with Jesus. When we are fallible as Matthew, remember, Jesus looks on you with mercy and calls you to follow him.

Father Steve Adrian



Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

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

Lectors: We now have two lectors serving at each Mass. One lector will read the welcome and the first reading. The second lector will process to the sanctuary carrying the lectionary and placing it on the ambo. The second lector will read the second reading and the Prayers of the Faithful. Lectors must be at least 14 years of age. We invite those interested in serving as lectors to contact the Parish Center at **651-224-9793** or Mary at mleibl@st-matts.org for further information.

Cross Bearer: The entrance procession now is led by a volunteer carrying the Processional Cross. Youth (12 years and older) and adults (male and female) are invited to join this ministry. If you would like to carry the cross at weekend Masses, call the Parish Center. You may also talk to the sacristan at the weekend Masses.

Children's Liturgy of the Word Adult Volunteer: We are in need of an adult volunteer to help with Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW). CLW takes place each Sunday during the 10:15 AM Mass. The children are taken to the chapel for a short lesson which is based around the readings for that weekend and may consist of story-telling, coloring or a similar activity. The volunteer will assist the CLW teacher and help conduct the class when needed. **Training will be provided.** Call the Parish Center at **651-224-9793** if interested in this volunteer opportunity.

Front Desk Receptionist: We are in need of a volunteer to serve as the receptionist on Thursday mornings. If you are able to help for a **two-hour time block** between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM, please contact the parish office (**651**) **224-9793**.

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org



The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on September 24, 2024 in memory of **Ed Millerbernd** on the 12th anniversary of his passing.

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.



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

Parish Administrator's Note

Church Roof Update

We have good news and bad news about the roof leaks in our church building.

The good news is that some of the problems have been addressed. In July of 2024, the roofing company replaced metal flashing around the perimeter of the top roof, at no cost to us. That work was not done in 2019 when the roof was replaced.

After the roofing company representative told me what they accomplished in July, I understood better why we used to have leaks in certain areas whenever we had heavy rains. Recall that we often had a bucket near Door 1. That spot hasn't had leaks since July—which is good news. A couple of other regular leak spots have also seemed to dry up, so to speak.

The bad news is that we've still suffered leaks in other spots. One of them is between the front rows of the two center seating sections. Another is over the vigil lights.

We've asked the roofing company to investigate these continuing leaks. We want them fixed before we move ahead with plans to replace the skylights. (The company now recommends skylight replacement whenever they install a new roof, given the usual lifespan for skylights.)

I believe we've made progress, but there's more work to be done.

In **other facilities news**, I'm reluctantly coming to the conclusion that we cannot renew our parking lot before winter arrives.

This is not because of inadequate fundraising. To the contrary, your support in cash and pledges has been wonderful. Thank you so much!

However, we've changed the scope of the project to include removal of the play structure closer to the school building. (It's outdated and due for replacement or removal.) To pave that additional area requires roughly \$40K more than the original bid.

Our Facilities Committee strongly recommends we pave it, in order to improve drainage. It seems that water drains into the play structure area, then seeps into the northwest corner of the school building (in the old bowling alley)—and that's not good. Accordingly, we've begun work with a consulting engineer. We want more information before we commit funds to that part of the campus.

Have a great week!

*Phil Grant, Administrator
Safe Environment Coordinator
pgrant@st-matts.org
651-224-9793*



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Fr. Stephen Adrian, Jeremiah Baker, Jeff Blomgren, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Holly Casillas, Sue Derringer, Mike Giefer, Sean Kane, Michael Karas, The Karas Family, Ken Kasheimer, Bernie Klein, Floro Luque, Joe Maidl, Diane McFarland, John Saldivar, Doris Schillinger, James Stanger, Sr., Chris Stevens, 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.*

Faith Formation News

Faith Formation Starts This Week: Faith Formation is a weekly religious education program for public school students in grades K-10. Our classes for the 2024-25 school year start on **Wednesday, September 25**, in the St Matthew Parish Center. Students in Grades K to 5 start class at 6:30 PM, and students in grades 6 to 10 start at 6:45 PM. Parents, please plan to attend a meeting in church at 7:00 PM that evening. Register students ahead of time using the registration form at www.st-matts.org/faith-formation/; the form is also in the back of church and at the Parish Center front desk. Or register students the first evening of class. Children who have not made their First Communion yet who are in grades 2 and up are prepared for that sacrament, and students in grades 8 to 10 who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation are prepared during the Wednesday evening classes.

News and Events

Children's Liturgy of the Word - Attention Parents! In-person Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) starts this **Sunday, September 22!** During CLW, young children ages 3 - 8 leave the sanctuary at the start of the Liturgy of the Word to hear the scripture readings proclaimed and explained at an age-appropriate level. Father calls the children to the altar and says a short blessing over them as they are dismissed. The children return to the Mass at the time of offertory. All Saint Matthew volunteers must meet criteria of background checks and VIRTUS (protecting Gods Children) safe environment training to work in the Children's Liturgy of the Word and Faith Formation Programs.



Parish Leadership

Rev. Antony Skaria, Parochial Administrator

Rev. Thomas M. Kommers, Sacramental Minister

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

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

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

Mary Leibl, Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@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

Ralph Brown	Maggie Lee
Isaac Garcia	Tara Perron
Kathy Goldenstein	Ellen Schneider
Terry Grundtner	Katie Shetka
Phil Grant, Ex Officio	

Finance Council Members

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

Readings for the week of September 22, 2024

Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 (6b)/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

Monday: Prv 3:27-34/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5/Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44/Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163/Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Eccl 11:9—12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17/Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday: Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 (9a)/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 21

4:15 PM Mass
+Bill Brengman
+Don Leibl
+Pam, Lucille, and Robert Stickler, Sr.

Sunday, September 22

10:15 AM Mass
+Leona Jenniges
+Nancy Maloney

Saturday, September 28

4:15 PM Mass
+Carol Dvorak Johnson
+Mary Ann Roscoe

Sunday, September 29

10:15 AM Mass
+Eileen Norton
+Jason Skogseth

Calendar of Events

Monday, September 23 - Friday, September 27

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

Monday, September 23

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM St. Mary's Mobile Dental Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open

Tuesday, September 24

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

Wednesday, September 25

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:30 PM - 7:45 PM Faith Formation Classes
6:30 PM Faith Formation Parent Meeting

Thursday, September 26

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:00 PM Crafting Group
6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting
7:00 PM AA Meeting

Friday, September 27

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

Saturday, September 28

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions
4:15 PM Mass

Sunday, September 29

10:15 AM Mass

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.*

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