



# Church of St. Matthew

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



**December 1, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

### **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**

**Parish Center (Mailing Address)**

510 Hall Avenue  
490 Hall Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55107

**Telephone** (651) 224-9793

**Fax** (651) 222-2688

**Website** [www.st-matts.org](http://www.st-matts.org)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew](http://www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew)

**YouTube** [www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew](http://www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew)

**Twitter** [twitter.com/stmattswestside](http://twitter.com/stmattswestside)

#### **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Friday

Closed

## Reflection from Father Steve

*“O Lord, may this sacrament in which we have participated profit us. Even now as we walk amid passing things you teach us by these sacraments to love the things of heaven and to hold fast to what endures.”*

These words are the final prayer of the Mass for the First Sunday of Advent. The spirit of this prayer will be repeated most of Advent as the conclusion of the daily Mass.

Another translation of the prayer invites us *“to use wisely the things of earth and to love the things of heaven.”*

I plan to use this simple prayer as my mantra for the season.

What are the things of earth? - Time, space, the created universe, my work, my responsibilities, etc.

Do I wisely use my time? I only have so much. Can I see my time, not as mine, but as the gift of God?

Do I use space wisely? Do I take more than I need? Do I deprive others of the space they need?

How do I relate to humanity’s common home—the earth? Am I careless in my use of food, energy, and water? Do I waste? Am I possessive?

Do I do my work well? Do I see my work as a participation in the creative work of God? Do I see my work as contributing to the common good? Do I bring the best that I am to my work?

Do I see my responsibilities as opportunities and not as burdens? Do I recognize that when I meet my responsibilities, I live in harmony and unity with those with whom I live?

What are the things of heaven?

Do I yearn to rest in the presence of the mercy of God? Am I eager to see Jesus face to face?

Do I desire to know with my heart that Jesus is the very image of the Father and that Jesus is the model of human living—my living? Am I eager to know myself as God knows me?

Am I ready to intercede with God for the good of the world and all people? Am I eager to experience the blessedness of God—“Come, you blessed of my Father, and possess the place prepared for you before the foundation of the World.”

Do I desire to see the myriad ways in which Jesus was presented to me in this life, especially in the faces of the poor, the forgotten, the sick, the stranger, the hungry, the abandoned, etc.?

Do I accept that if I seek peace, I must embrace justice? Am I willing to let go of all that keep me from union with God and my neighbor; after all, such union is heaven?

The opening weeks of Advent focus on the end times, the fulfillment of the Divine plan, and the restoration of all things in Christ. This fulfillment is what we prayed for and celebrated last Sunday in the Feast of Jesus Christ King of the Universe.

*Ever-living God, you will restore all things in your Son, the King of the Universe. Grant that the whole of creation, freed from the slavery of sin, may serve you and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. We pray this through Jesus Christ, your Son.*

*Father Steve Adrian  
Pastor Emeritus*

## Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

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

**Thank You:** To all who have donated to Isaac’s Blessing Bags. It is encouraging to look into the boxes each week and see that the donations are filling up the boxes. Your generosity will help the less fortunate, many whom are homeless and have children, to feel blessed that people they have never met, would take the time to help them enjoy the “love” of Christmas.

**Thank You:** To all who helped with the anointing: **Cristina and Fr. Thomas** who did the planning. **Fr. Dolan** who assisted Fr. Thomas. To the following who dismissed the rows and assisted parishioners as they came forward for anointing: **Josie and Stephen Mike, Kathy and Scott Goldenstein, Jeanne Maanum, Tim Dalzell, Tom Kabesh, Dave and Mooreen Sunday, Maggie Lee, Paul Heitzinger, Steve Grundei, Kathy and Al Schowalter, Ginny Roethler and Mary Leibl.** Thank you to all who came forward to be anointed.

***WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!***

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

### **St. Matthew Welcomes All to Our Parish!**

New to the area, joining us for the first time or coming home again? Consider registering with our parish. You can download the registration form from our website or contact Angela (arakow@st-matts.org) in the parish office.



## Parish Administrator's Note

### Have a Blessed Advent

Happy New *Liturgical* Year! I say that because the season of Advent is the beginning of our church year.

I look forward to Advent each year, because we get to sing special Advent hymns—great hymns full of anticipation and longing. I also like Advent's gradual build up to the full glory of Christmas, as opposed to skipping straight from Thanksgiving to Dec. 24-25.

### It's Complicated . . .

. . . to prepare for heaven. That was my main takeaway from a seminar we hosted a year ago, aptly titled "Preparing for Heaven" (PFH). As we look towards the end of 2024, PFH has been on my mind.

Last year's PFH speakers emphasized the importance of planning ahead. It's easier than planning while grieving. Advance planning is one of the greatest gifts we can give our loved ones. Some things to consider:

- Our music and liturgy director, Cristina Czaia, can help you with **funeral** planning.
- Catholic **estate** planning. Think of it as a road map. Which direction will you take when it comes to a medical directive? A will or a trust? Power of attorney? Beneficiaries for your funds and assets? Charitable bequests?
- Who's on your **planning team**? Members could include an estate planning attorney, your family, a financial planner, and a philanthropic advisor. *Note: please let me know if you're planning a bequest to the parish.*

At last year's PFH seminar, Fr. Steve spoke of being grateful as a "virtue of an older person." As I get older, I understand that more. I try to maintain an attitude of gratitude for the many blessings in my life.

Let's be thankful as Catholics, because we're blessed with rich sacramental experiences. They help us share our faith with our children. Let us also share our approach to charity with our children. It's another gift we can give them.

Have a great week!

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



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

## Prayer Requests

**Fr. Stephen Adrian, Jeremiah Baker, Jeff Blomgren, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Holly Casillas, Sue Derringer, Philip Heitzinger, Sean Kane, Michael Karas, The Karas Family, Ken Kasheimer, Bernie Klein, Janette Koegel, Floro Luque, Diane McFarland, John Saldivar, Doris Schillinger, Richard Smith, Chris Stevens, and Thomas & Kasi Wright.**

*A name will remain on the prayer list for two months after which time it will be removed unless you ask to keep the name on the list. Please contact the parish office (651-224-9793) or email Angela (arakow@st-matts.org) to keep the list current.*

*We kindly ask you to obtain the individual's permission for bulletin publication and inclusion in the weekend Prayers of the Faithful.*

*We are strong as a community praying together.*

## Faith Formation News

### Faith Formation Mass

On **Wednesday, December 4**, Faith Formation families will celebrate the start of Advent with Mass in St. Matthew church. Students, parents, and other family members should arrive at the church building by **6:45 PM** (or earlier if your student's teacher requests that). Families are welcome to bring a few small items to put in the large box in back of church that will go into Isaac's Blessing Bags.

### First Reconciliation Service

Faith Formation and Community of Saints students in grades 2 and up who have registered to receive First Communion with St. Matt's are invited to our First Reconciliation service on **Saturday, December 14, at 10:00 AM** in church. At least one family member should attend with the student. Family members are welcome to go to confession after the children have made their First Reconciliation.

## News and Events

### Rosary Society December 10th Meeting

All women of the community are invited to the December 10th Rosary Society meeting, which will be held from **12:30 to 2:00 pm** in the lower level of the Parish Center. Join us as we share family traditions and memories as we get ready for the Rosary Society's Christmas Bake Sale, Boutique and Craft Fair which will be held **Saturday and Sunday, December 14th and 15th.**

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

## 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 December 1, 2024**

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (1b)/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

## Mass Intentions

### **Saturday, November 30**

4:15 PM Mass  
+Leo Kegler  
+Kevin Kleman  
+Eileen Norton

### **Sunday, December 1**

10:15 AM Mass  
+Agnes C. and Gordon B. Roscoe  
+Robert A. and Jeanne M. Stadt

### **Saturday, December 7**

4:15 PM Mass  
+James Lannon  
+Lee F. Maruska  
+Robert B. and Stephen J. Roscoe

### **Sunday, December 8**

10:15 AM Mass  
+Leona Jenniges  
+Nanette Sobaski

## Calendar of Events

### **Monday, December 2 - Friday, December 6**

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

### **Monday, December 2**

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

### **Tuesday, December 3**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
12:00 PM Liturgy Committee Meeting  
5:30 PM Facilities Committee Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 4**

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
6:45 PM Faith Formation Advent Mass  
7:30 PM Men's Club Board Meeting

### **Thursday, December 5**

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

### **Friday, December 6**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM St. Matthew Community Band

### **Saturday, December 7**

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

### **Sunday, December 8**

10:15 AM Mass  
3:00 PM Saint Paul Civic Symphony Concert

### **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.*

### **Support Our Advertisers**

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