



Church of St. Matthew

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



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December 15, 2024
Third 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

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

Fr. Steve Adrian wrote his bulletin reflections in advance. This is the last reflection he wrote before his passing.

The manger is a significant part of Luke's one sentence description of the birth of Jesus.

⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn (Luke 2:7).

In the second chapter of Luke, the author mentions the manger three times within nine verses:

¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger' (2:12). The angel announces the birth of the savior to the shepherds.

¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger' (2:16). The shepherds find the child.

What does Luke not describe in Chapter 2? There is no mention of animals in the place. Yet, in almost all images of the birth of Jesus, we find the image of an ox and an ass.

The manger is very important for Luke's Gospel. Luke seeks, throughout this Gospel, to show that the people who should have recognized Jesus did not recognize him—the priests, the scribes and the Pharisees. Those who did recognize Jesus were the poor, the humble, the nameless, and the ignored—symbolized by the shepherds.

All of this is important because of the prophecy of Isaiah.

² Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth;
for the LORD has spoken:
I reared children and brought them up,
but they have rebelled against me.

³ The ox knows its owner,
and the donkey its master's crib;
but Israel does not know,
my people do not understand (Isaiah 1:2-3)

From the very beginning, the artists wanted to make sure that their audience understood the reference to the manger. The manger inaugurates the Gospel According to Saint Luke—the "Gospel of the Poor."

Thomas Merton, in his first Christmas as a monk at Gethsemane, Kentucky, wrote the following, as recalled in The Seven Story Mountain, his autobiography.

"It is good that somewhere in the world there are people who realize that Christ is born. There were only a few shepherds at the first Bethlehem, and it is the same now. The ox and the ass understood more of the first Christmas than the high priests in Jerusalem. And it is the same today."

Father Steve Adrian
Pastor Emeritus

Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

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

Mass Ministry: At each Mass, we ask for volunteers to carry the processional cross at the beginning and the end of Mass. Also, two people to bring forward the bread and wine at the offertory. If you would like to have an opportunity to take a more active part in the liturgy, please speak to a sacristan, greeter or usher before Mass.

Thank You: By now, everyone has received their Advent mailing. In addition to a letter from our administrator, Phil Grant, there are also envelopes for Christmas and flower donations and the Little Book for Advent reflection. We want to thank our team of volunteers who gathered one morning to prepare these items for mailing. We recognize **Rose, Chuck, Karen, Chris M., Anita, Angela, and Mary.**

Thank You: To **Cristina, Mary B.** and **Kathy** who created the Ofrenda Altar which was in the back of the church during November. Special thanks to all who brought pictures to memorialize family and friends.

Thank You: To **Cristina** and **members of the Liturgy Committee** who planned and created the event to welcome the Liturgical New Year and celebrate our many volunteers. We especially thank **Josie and Steve, Kathy S., Karen T., Mary L., Cristina, Phil and Angela.** The event was well attended by many of our volunteers!

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.



continued

Parish Administrator's Note

Life Eternal, Life on Earth

Fr. Steve Adrian passed into eternal life on Sunday, December 1. I know everyone is keeping him and his family in their prayers. Thank you for those.

I'm also grateful for the countless parishioners, volunteers, staff and friends who have met, prayed, and planned for his 11:00 a.m. funeral next Saturday, December 21.

Per Fr. Steve's wishes, visitation will begin at 3:00 p.m. the day before—on Friday, December 20. There will be a brief ceremony to "Welcome the Casket". After that, visitation will continue until a Vespers service at 7:00 p.m.

After Vespers, there will be an all-night vigil until 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning. At that point, there'll be a break until visitation resumes at 9:30 a.m.

Additional notes as I write this column 10 days in advance of publication:

- I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for the many skilled, knowledgeable people who've stepped up to help our parish with planning for a large, complicated funeral. This is what a volunteer parish looks like in action.
- We expect dozens of priests to attend, for Fr. Steve was well known, liked and respected by his fellow priests.
- Archbishop Hebda will preside. There might be additional bishops.
- We expect many people will attend the funeral, so we're putting out more chairs in the church and configuring the Social Hall for additional seating. The funeral will be livestreamed.
- Our new video and audio equipment will be in place, so we can livestream Fr. Steve's funeral and other events. The new equipment builds on previous audio-visual systems made possible by your generosity. Thank you!
- We have begun planning for a celebration of life to be held in several weeks.
- See today's insert and our website for updates. **Go to www.st-matts.org**

Fr. Steve was a wonderful priest, pastor and friend to all. He taught us much about how to live—and how to prepare for heaven.

Rest in peace, Father Steve Adrian, Pastor Emeritus.

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

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

Prayer Requests

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, 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 Update

Faith Formation students have class this Wednesday, December 18, in the St. Matthew Parish Center. This is our last class of 2024, the final class before a two-week Christmas and New Year's break—students will not have class on December 25 and January 1. In 2025, Faith Formation classes resume on Wednesday, January 8.

News and Events

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. During the month of November, St. Matthew donated **37 pounds** of food. On behalf of Neighborhood House and the people it serves, thank you for your generosity!

December Baptism Preparation Meetings **Canceled** (for Children 6 years and younger)

Baptism Preparation meetings at St. Matthew are canceled for the month of December. They were previously scheduled for Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00 PM and Saturday, December 21 at 10:30 AM.

For more information —please contact **Cristina Czaia** ([cczaia@st-matts.org](mailto:cenzaia@st-matts.org)) or call the Parish Office (651-224-9793).



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

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 15, 2024

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-4

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 14

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

Sunday, December 15

10:15 AM Mass
+Nancy Maloney
+Arthur Minus

Saturday, December 21

4:15 PM Mass
+James Fee
+Arthur Geis
+Don Leibl

Sunday, December 22

10:15 AM Mass
+Fr. Stephen Adrian

Calendar of Events

Monday, December 16 - Thursday, December 19

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

**Loaves and Fishes Meal Site is take-out only on Thursday, December 19.*

**Loaves and Fishes Meal Site is closed on Friday, December 20.*

Monday, December 16

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

Tuesday, December 17

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Scripture Study - Gospel of Luke

Wednesday, December 18

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
5:00 PM - 6:45 PM Baptism Preparation for Older Children
6:45 PM Faith Formation

Thursday, December 19

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

Friday, December 20

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM Visitation for Fr. Stephen Adrian
7:00 PM Vespers
After Vespers All-night Vigil concluding at 7:00 AM, Saturday, December 21

Saturday, December 21

7:00 AM Conclusion of all-night Vigil
9:30 AM Visitation for Fr. Stephen Adrian
11:00 AM Mass of Christian Burial of Fr. Stephen Adrian
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions
4:15 PM Mass

Sunday, December 22

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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